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A Year After Plot, Life Looks Better to Yeltsin

By Steven Erlanger
New York Times Service

MOSCOW — A year ago, President Boris N. Yeltsin announced that he was preparing a "September barrage" against his opponents in Parliament. By October, the metaphor had turned real, with tanks firing canons into the Parliament building.

This August, there is an eerie stability. Monthly inflation is down to 6 percent compared with 26 percent a year ago. Salaries are worth more, with the ruble stronger, and consumer spending is up.

There is consensus on economic policy under Prime Minister Viktor S. Chernomyrdin, who has adopted the very tight-money policies he criticized in January.

Mr. Yeltsin appears more energetic, the new Parliament is behaving itself and a divided opposition is apparently looking more toward 1996 elections than to street fighting.

On a trip last week down the Volga River, talking with

ordinary Russians, Mr. Yeltsin had a new announcement: "I see that in many regions the economic slide has stopped."

That is a vast improvement, but how stable is it? Made pessimistic by their tortured history, few Russians like to hazard any bets. The country has been in tumult so long that any extended period without calamity is deeply unsettling.

Opinion polls still show ambivalence about the future, even as the newspapers debate whether the August 1991 coup attempt against Mikhail S. Gorbachev was an effort to save the country or to strangle it.

Among Muscovites, traditionally the most cosmopolitan of Russians, only 30 percent think capitalism will improve their lives and that of their families while 37 percent still say they do not know. About 23 percent think things will become worse. A year ago, fewer people — 26 percent — expected an improvement in daily life.

There are enormous problems in Russia, from crime,

corruption and moral disorder, to growing unemployment, unpaid salaries and intercompany debt. But as Sergei Pavlenko, head of the Russia's Center for Economic Reforms, said: "The high-temperature fever crisis of the Russian economy is over."

A senior Western finance official put it differently: "We're happy with Russia now. Why? Because it's not on the precipice anymore. It may get there again, but it's kind of back-burner. It's costing us less in money and less in nerves."

For lack of a better strategy in an extended period of thin budgets and greater domestic demands, Washington and other allies seem simply to be trying to buy time for Russia.

Such a policy annoys Foreign Minister Andrei V. Kozyrev, who fears that Western miserliness and strategic neglect now, in sharp contrast to the effort made to

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A PASTORAL PONTIFF — Pope John Paul II strolling Monday in the Aosta Valley in Italy. The Vatican denied published reports that the pontiff's health was declining, saying he walked for a full 90 minutes and that he still planned to visit Bosnia-Herzegovina next month. The Pope, 74, is on a 10-day holiday.

Republicans Help Clinton Win a Round on Crime Bill

By Kenneth J. Cooper
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — House Democrats have joined with moderate Republicans to give President Bill Clinton a desperately needed victory on a compromise \$30 billion crime bill, sending the measure to the Senate for final votes.

The comfortable victory, 235 to 195, came late Sunday after Democratic leaders negotiated an agreement with Republican

moderates to devote more funds to police forces and prisons but fewer to crime-prevention programs, which critics called wasteful.

The moderates then kept their end of a rare bipartisan bargain in the House and gave 46 votes for the bill, including its ban on 19 assault weapons, "copycat" models and large ammunition clips. The ban had been vigorously fought by the powerful National Rifle Association.

Mr. Clinton praised the bipartisan suc-

cess in passing the bill, which opponents had blocked Aug. 11 on a procedural vote. "This is the way Washington ought to work, and I hope it will work in this way in the future," he said in remarks at the White House.

To complete a reversal of his political fortunes on the crime bill, Mr. Clinton must win at least one more procedural battle, this time in the Senate, which passed its version of the crime bill last November.

Saying that more funds must be trimmed from the bill, Senator Orrin G. Hatch of Utah pledged that he and his fellow Republicans would launch a challenge based on budgetary rules, possibly forcing Democrats to secure 60 votes to get final action on the legislation. "It still may collapse," he said.

The chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Joseph R. Biden Jr., Democrat

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Cubans Ignore U.S. Rebuff: 'We Just Want to Get Out'

By Roberto Suro
Washington Post Service

HAVANA — Slapping together makeshift rafts of inner tubes, ropes and scrap lumber, Cubans continue to set out to sea for the United States in large numbers despite the Clinton administration's new effort to deter them.

Dozens of those leaving said they were not troubled by the prospect of ending up back in Cuba, at the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay.

"Guantanamo is all right by me," said Juan, an electrician who was busy hammering together a raft on the rocky beach at Cojimar, on the eastern fringes of Havana. "We'll be with the Americans there. Anyway, I don't think we'll be there for long. I have a brother in Florida who will get me out."

In the face of an unprecedented exodus

of Cuban rafters, President Bill Clinton last week reversed a U.S. policy that had welcomed people fleeing Cuba as refugees. Instead, those intercepted at sea by the Coast Guard will be taken to Guantanamo, and those who make it to U.S. shores will be detained.

The Coast Guard had stopped 1,367 refugees Monday by late afternoon, a daily record since the Mariel exodus in 1980, which saw 125,000 Cubans arrive in the United States in the space of five months. A total of 1,189 refugees were picked up Saturday, and 1,293 were picked up Sunday.

Including Monday's refugees, the Coast Guard said, it has rescued 6,418 Cubans in August and 11,449 in all of 1994. An uncounted number have perished at sea.

Working with Juan on the beach at Coji-

See CUBA, Page 4



HARSH PENALTY — As China continued its policy of quick retribution for corruption, Gui Bingquan, director of a grain bureau, was executed Monday in Liaoning Province after being sentenced for embezzlement.

mystery because dealers are preternaturally closed-mouthed about this cash business.

What the dealers do say is that a vintage pair of jeans — like Levi's from the 1950s or '60s — can bring \$3,000 or more abroad, although most of the jeans sell for less than \$100.

It is a business almost as secretive as the drug trade, and nearly as splintered. But on the second Sunday of every month, outside the Rose Bowl, everyone who is anyone in this exclusive circle, grows to perhaps 100 people from a handful a few years ago, shows up to buy and sell used jeans by the bale and to bargain for the vintage pieces.

On a recent Sunday, Max Shapiro, a San Francisco dealer, was having what he called an uncharacteristically slow day. His biggest sale was a pair of Levi's from the '60s that brought \$150, meager compared with the \$3,300 he made on one sale another day.

Nat and Lucky Wongchawat, a brother-sister team from Thailand, frequently hunt here. In their early 20s, they make a monthly pilgrimage for 10,000 pairs for their store in Bangkok.

Japan is still the biggest customer for used jeans, although the boom has cooled.

"They can buy jeans made in Hong Kong for \$6 but would rather have \$10 for \$100," said Val Marco, a Los Angeles dealer who left his job as a vice president at a Silicon Valley robotics company to sell jeans after repeatedly getting offers for his Levi's on business trips abroad.

Dealers scour small towns and farm communities like Lubbock, Texas, and Cody, Wyoming, advertising in local papers that they will pay 50 cents to \$15 a pair. On the appointed day they pull into town and do business

See JEANS, Page 4

Latest California Gold Rush — Vintage, Used Levis

By Sallie Hofmeister
New York Times Service

PASADENA, California — When the giant flea market outside the Rose Bowl opens at dawn, bargain hunters from Thailand and Japan are first on the field. Pockets bulging with wads of \$100 bills and carting big empty suitcases strapped to luggage dollies, they load up on American artifacts like weathered leather jackets and rock-and-roll memorabilia.

But the real quarry is used Levis, which can fetch as much as several thousand dollars overseas.

As another generation of teenagers embraces American culture, secondhand jeans have become status symbols. A thriving underground economy has sprouted West of the Mississippi to buy, wash and repair used Levis for resale from Finland to Australia.

No one knows how many pairs are being shipped abroad. Precisely how much profit is made is also a

Dow Jones	Trib Index
Down 3.89	Up 0.23%
3751.22	116.88
The Dollar	
New York DM	Mon close 1.5284 previous close 1.5397
Pound	1.5653 1.5649
Yen 97.85 98.68	
FF 5.238 5.2745	

Newspaper Prices	
Andorra	9.00 FF Luxembourg 40 L Fr
Antilles	11.20 FF Morocco 12 Dh
Cameroon	4.00 CPA Qatar 8.00 Riels
Egypt	E.P. 5000 Réunion 11.20 FF
France	9.00 FF Saudi Arabia 6.00 R.
Greece	9.00 CPA Senegal 5.50 CPA
Italy	3.00 CPA Turkey 1.10.00 Din
Ivory Coast	1.20 CPA U.K. 1.35.00 Din
Jordan	JD U.A.E. 4.50 Dirh.
Lebanon	US\$1.50 U.S. Mil (Eur) \$1.10

Somalis Kill 7 UN Troops In Ambush of India Convoy

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MOGADISHU, Somalia — Somali militiamen ambushed UN peacekeepers Monday in southwestern Somalia, killing seven Indian soldiers and wounding six, officials said.

The latest incident brings to 106 the number of UN peacekeepers killed in fighting in Somalia since May 1993.

Major Richard McDonald, military spokesman for the UN mission in Somalia, said Monday that "an unprovoked and carefully coordinated ambush occurred on an Indian convoy at Burleego."

Burleego is a village about 115 kilometers (70 miles) southwest of the capital, Mogadishu. The area, as well as southern Mogadishu, is controlled by the Somali National Alliance, which is headed by General Mohamed Farrah Aidid.

General Aidid, who once had a price put on his head by the United Nations for the killing of 24 Pakistani peacekeepers in an ambush last year, is Somalia's most notorious warlord.

Major McDonald said that about 70 militiamen had attacked the Indian convoy with anti-aircraft weapons, mortars and small arms. In a firefight that lasted several hours, the peacekeepers destroyed a number of Somali vehicles mounted with heavy weapons.

The major said there were a number of Somali casualties, but he gave no precise figure. Three of the wounded Indians were seriously hurt, he said.

Although the area is controlled by General Aidid, Major McDonald said the identity of the Somali attackers was unknown.

Also on Monday, U.S. military vehicles were fired on by Somali gunmen in southern Mogadishu, but no casualties were reported.

The Americans returned fire, but nobody was wounded on either side, Major McDonald said.

A handful of U.S. military advisers and about 50 Marine embassy guards remain in Somalia. A pullout of U.S. and most other Western forces in the spring left India with the second-largest contingent among the approximately 18,000 UN peacekeepers still in the country.

The UN secretary-general, Boutros Boutros Ghali, recommended Friday that the United Nations immediately reduce its personnel in Somalia by 1,500.

Mr. Boutros Ghali said the force should be reduced to 15,000 before the end of October or during November.

U.S. forces were withdrawn from Somalia in March after suffering heavy casualties in combat with Somali factions.

The UN mission's mandate expires at the end of September. The United States, a permanent member of the Security Council, is expected to press for a sharp reduction or a complete withdrawal of peacekeepers if a new government is not in place in Somalia by that time.

(AP, Reuters, AFP)

Mexicans Opt For Stability After a Year Of Upheaval

Ruling Party Candidate Is Ahead, but Monitors Cite Some Irregularities

By Tod Robberson
Washington Post Service

MEXICO CITY — Mexican voters declared clearly in results for the presidential election Monday that they wanted a rapid end to the most turbulent eight-month period the country has witnessed since 1910 revolution.

With their selection of Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon, of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, the Mexican electorate appears to have voted its preference for stability and continuity after a year that tested the nation to its core.

With 32 percent of the ballots counted, the federal Electoral Institute announced official results showing that Mr. Zedillo had easily beaten Diego Fernández de Cevallos of the conservative National Action Party. Mr. Zedillo had 47.8 percent of the vote and Mr. Fernández was second with 30.3 percent.

Some Mexican and foreign observers said irregularities, including scattered shortages of ballots, marred the Zedillo victory.

Civic Alliance, a coalition of 380 independent groups, complained of "serious irregularities" in many polling places.

But the results of Sunday's election offered a telling glimpse of how Mexicans think of themselves as a nation. It is clearly a more confident and hopeful nation that has overcome its fear of the United States and the threat it once posed through the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Mexicans did not, as many analysts predicted, vote to reverse the trade agreement by ousting the regime that helped enact it.

While survey results show that Mexicans are looking toward a brighter future with hopes of greater job opportunities and higher incomes, they continue to feel the aftershocks of an armed peasant revolt in southern Chiapas state, the March 23 assassination of Mr. Zedillo's predecessor on the PRI ticket, stock market upheaval and the ever-present threat of a major currency devaluation.

A telling statistic came from an exit poll question asked of voters across the nation: Did you select your candidate choice because you expect it to improve your personal and family situation or because it will improve Mexico's situation? Seventy percent said they had set aside personal concerns and voted for Mexico.

At the same time, however, Mexicans sent a clear message that they were dissatisfied with the ruling party and the machine-style power it has wielded in the presidency for the past 65 years. Analysts said Sunday's vote was less a mandate for the PRI than it was for the candidate and his chief sponsor, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

Although Mexicans remain skeptical of Mr. Salinas' economic reforms and opening to the United States through the North American Free Trade Agreement, they

See MEXICO, Page 4

Moscow Agrees To Help Halt Nuclear Traffic

New York Times Service

MOSCOW — Russia and Germany agreed Monday to cooperate to prevent the smuggling of nuclear materials, whatever their origin, by tightening border controls and improving the exchange of information between their intelligence agencies, officials of both countries said.

A series of seizures of bomb-grade nuclear material in Germany, including a shipment of more than 300 grams (10.5 ounces) of plutonium-239 on a Moscow-Munich flight, prompted three days of talks here between Chancellor Helmut Kohl's intelligence coordinator, Bernd Schmidbauer, and senior Russian nuclear and security officials.

Former Spies Deny Mitterrand Link to Plot to Kill Lawyer

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

PARIS — Two former spy masters denied Monday that President François Mitterrand had been implicated in a secret service plot in the 1980s to murder Jacques Vergès, the lawyer for the captured terrorist Carlos.

Yves Bonnet, who headed the counterintelligence agency DST from 1982 to 1985, called the alleged plot "the wildest fantasy." His counterpart at the DGSE secret service at the time, Pierre Marion, denied any knowledge of a planned attack against Mr. Vergès and dismissed the report as ax-grinding.

The two men were reacting to weekend comments by Captain Paul Barril, the former head of an anti-terrorist unit, who said in an interview with a French television channel that Mr. Vergès "was a priority target" in 1982 and 1983.

"All the services were onto him because he was at the center of all terrorist contacts," he said Sunday on TF1.

Captain Barril said decisions about security matters had been made at the highest levels of government and that Mr. Mitterrand and Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy "were aware" of what was going on.

Mr. Mitterrand's office declined to comment on the charges. It said Captain Barril had never worked at the presidential palace.

Mr. Vergès, who has taken

over the headlines from his guerrilla client since Carlos was seized in Sudan and taken to Paris last week, has accused Mr. Mitterrand of ordering him killed and has challenged the president to deny the allegations.

Mr. Vergès said last week that Captain Barril told him in 1991 that the killing had not been carried out because it would have been too conspicuous.

Mr. Vergès was Captain Barril's lawyer in a scandal in which his elite gendarmerie squad was found to have planted false evidence in 1982 to incriminate three Irishmen suspected of being Irish Republican Army guerrillas. The Irishmen were released. The case against Captain Barril was dropped.

French newspapers have quoted reports from the former East German secret service, Stasi, alleging that Mr. Vergès could have been a CIA agent and had supplied rockets fired at a French nuclear plant.

The newspaper *Le Figaro* said Monday that Stasi had linked Mr. Vergès with the Central Intelligence Agency during his defense of the late former Nazi officer Klaus Barbie, who was jailed for life in France for crimes against humanity.

Mr. Vergès has denied other such accusations and has denounced what he called a "Stasi disinformation campaign."

(*AFP, Reuters*)



A worker putting up a Free Democratic campaign poster Monday in Bonn. It shows the party leader, Klaus Kinkel.

Kohl's Party Pledges to Limit State Spending

Reuters

BONN — The leadership of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats on Monday agreed on an election manifesto that includes a commitment to limit state spending and cut social security payments.

The party general secretary, Peter Hintze, said that the final version of the manifesto, intended to form the basis of Mr. Kohl's campaign for general elections on Oct. 16, was largely identical to a draft already circulating in Bonn.

The opposition Social Democrats quickly accused the Christian Democratic Union of victimizing the poor and covering up plans for tax increases.

A central theme of the manifesto is the huge state debt and budget deficit that Germany has run up through spending to help the struggling East German economy since reunification in 1990.

The draft said that the Christian Democratic Union and its sister party in Bavaria, the Christian Social Union, would

insist that any spending increases be balanced by cuts elsewhere in the budget.

"Annual growth in state spending must remain clearly below the level of economic growth, so that room is created to cut new public-sector borrowing and reduce the tax burden," it said.

The Christian Democratic Union has pledged to levy an across-the-board income tax surcharge of 7.5 percent starting in 1995 to help finance German unity.

Dutch Coalition Takes Office Pledging Budget Cuts

The Associated Press

THE HAGUE — Queen Beatrix swore in a union leader-turned-politician as prime minister Monday in a new government incorporating left and right to tackle growing economic and social problems.

The Labor Party leader, Wim Kok, has hitched his party's wagon to those of the free market Liberals and left-leaning Democrats 66 in an unlikely coalition that has promised more jobs but also more cuts in the generous state welfare system.

The ceremony at the Huis ten Bosch Palace here marked the beginning of an unaccustomed spell in opposition for the Christian Democrats, part of every Netherlands ruling coalition since the 1917 introduction of universal suffrage.

The Christian Democrats' record ballot-box defeat in May — losing 20 seats in the 150-seat Parliament — cost the party a coalition berth and its leader, Elco Brinkman, his post.

A policy blueprint drawn up by Mr. Kok and already approved by his new cabinet pledges spending cuts of 1.6 billion guilders (\$10.5 billion) over the coming four years, with about half that figure coming from the once-sacrosanct social security system.

Administration of the country's sickness benefits will be privatized, and child-support payments and old-age pensions will be cut.

The coalition will free industry of part of its heavy tax burden in a bid to stimulate job creation in this nation of 15 million.

Mr. Kok hopes his 14-minister cabinet will send a total of 350,000 jobless back to work in the public and private sectors during its four-year term.

His fiscal austerity program also aims at bringing the Dutch budget deficit down to 2.9 percent of the gross domestic product by 1998.

The deficit is expected to rise to 4.3 percent of GDP by the end of this year.

Once head of the Federation of Trade Unions, Mr. Kok became the first Labor prime minister sworn in since Joop den Uyl, who led a five-party coalition from 1973 to 1977.

Mr. Kok warmed up for his new job as deputy prime minister and finance minister in the last cabinet, a Christian Democrat-Labor coalition led by the outgoing prime minister, Ruud Lubbers.

The new cabinet was sworn in more than 100 days after the May national elections, which left no two parties with enough seats for a majority coalition.

Few members are politically prominent. There are only two survivors from the Lubbers cabinet — Mr. Kok and Jan Pronk of Labor, who remains development aid minister.

The D66 leader, Hans van Mierlo, is the new foreign minister and one of two new deputies to Mr. Kok along with Interior Minister Hans Dijkstal, a Liberal. Labor holds five ministerial seats as do the Liberals, with D66 filling the last four.

Neo-Nazism Said to Grow In Germany

Reuters

BONN — The leader of the Jewish community in Germany warned Monday that neo-Nazi ideology, once largely confined to violence-prone gangs, had begun spreading among intellectuals.

Ignatz Bubis, chairman of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, said the new circles of far-right thinkers were more dangerous than skinheads and other thugs who have attacked foreigners and others since German unification in 1990.

"The state will be able to cope with the violence, but the intellectuals supply the ideology that lures young people and makes them into violent criminals," Mr. Bubis told German radio.

Mr. Bubis said many of the new far-right ideologists believed they were preventing racism by adopting neo-Nazi slogans as a way of drawing militants off the streets and into the political process.

But he praised what he saw as the refusal of many Germans to accept radicalism, pointing to a public outcry this month when a court showed understanding for a convicted far-right leader, Günter Deckert.

The court in the southwestern city of Mannheim gave Mr. Deckert a suspended one-year sentence for denying that the Holocaust — the Nazi attempt to annihilate Europe's Jews — had ever happened. The prosecutors had demanded a two-year term.

Manila Women Protest Japan Visit

MANILA (Reuters) — Dozens of former Filipino "comfort women" some in tears and others screaming with anger, demanded \$200,000 each in compensation from Japan on Monday, the eve of a visit by Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama.

The women, in a rally outside the Japanese Embassy in Manila's Makati financial district, rejected a reported plan by Japan to set up job training programs for Asian women to show remorse for atrocities by its soldiers during World War II.

Mr. Murayama arrives in Manila on Tuesday for a three-day visit as part of a four-nation tour of Asia. The welcome he will receive in Manila will be mixed with requests from officials for more economic assistance and demands for money from women forced into prostitution by Japanese soldiers during the war.

Correction

Because of an editing error, a Bloomberg Business News dispatch in Saturday's Business and Finance section incorrectly described the real estate outlook in Hong Kong. The article should have stated that Morgan Stanley Asia predicted that office rents would fall by 20 percent over the next three years.

TRAVEL UPDATE

British Rail Workers in 11th Strike

LONDON (Reuters) — British railroad signal workers walked out Monday in their 11th brief strike since early June, forcing commuters to find other ways to go to work and go home. British Rail said it would operate up to 40 percent of its services during the 24-hour strike, which began at noon.

Railtrack, a separate company formed in April to operate the tracks and signals under a program to break up the national railroad system, said signallers were drifting back to work. "As the days go by, more and more signaling staff have shown that they don't agree," Railtrack said in a statement.

Slovakia and Israel signed an agreement to open communications links between airports and transport authorities. (Reuters)

A 23-year-old Danish tourist contracted cholera while on vacation in western Turkey, the Danish Serology Institute reported. It said a German also came down with cholera there. (AP)

Greeks battled fires on the islands of Samos and Poros for a second day, while another fire broke out in the Arcadia area. (AP)

Iraq is stopping all arriving travelers, including Iraqis, at its borders and testing them for the virus that causes AIDS. (AP)

Palestinians Fear Authoritarian Trend of Leaders

By Carlyle Murphy

Washington Post Service

JERUSALEM — Two incidents have sparked fresh concerns among Palestinians about their new self-rule government's commitment to democratic procedures and to tolerating internal dissent.

In one incident, Saleh Shaer, 15, was shot dead and another Gazan youth was wounded during a scuffle with the Palestinian security police

in the newly autonomous area of Gaza.

Mr. Shaer is the second Palestinian killed by the police since Palestinian self-rule began in Gaza and Jericho in May.

In the second, a Palestinian human rights group here demanded an investigation into "terror tactics and death threats" allegedly made against Maha Nasser, a long-time activist, after she opposed having a minister from the new Palestin-

ian National Authority preside at a women's conference set for this week in Jerusalem.

Mrs. Nasser, 40, said in telephone interview from her home in Ramallah, north of Jerusalem, that she had received an anonymous call last week from someone who threatened to "smash" her and harm her children unless she reversed her position within 48 hours. Later, a sheet with a red stain was put on her doorstep, she said.

The incidents raised new fears among Palestinians that Palestine Liberation Organization officials who have come to rule them after a long exile in Arab states with little tradition of dissent or official accountability will seek to impose similar authoritarian patterns here.

Although Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman and the head of

the national authority, promised self-rule would mean "democracy, democracy, democracy," his security forces have already forced Al Nahar, a Jerusalem-based Palestinian newspaper, to close down.

Shortly afterwards, a prominent Palestinian journalist, Daoud Kuttab, was told he could no longer have his byline in the pro-Arafat newspaper, Al Quds. The move was widely seen by Palestinians as a result of pressure from Mr. Arafat after Mr. Kuttab and other Palestinian journalists criticized the closure of Al Nahar.

"This kind of authority is leading toward totalitarianism and authoritarianism," said Riad Malki, a Palestinian academic who has long criticized the PLO for being undemocratic. "Democracy is something

they lack and accept."

The Palestine Human Rights Information Center, meanwhile, criticized the threats against Mrs. Nasser in an open letter to two national authority ministers. "Political violence in any manifestation cannot be tolerated, particularly by an authority which is in the process of establishing democratic process," the Jerusalem-based group said.

Mrs. Nasser is on the executive committee of the General Union of Palestinian Women, a PLO-affiliated organization whose members come from the various factions that make up the PLO. She is affiliated with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a faction that is critical of the self-rule arrangement reached by Mr. Arafat and the Israelis.

Aviation Safety vs. National Culture? Boeing Takes a Flyer

By Don Phillips

Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Do the world's cultural and regional differences play a role in aviation safety?

The Boeing Commercial Airplane Group, with some trepidation, has raised that question in an update of its authoritative 10-year survey of aviation safety.

While offering no final answer, the world's largest airplane manufacturer says initial data suggest the possibility and demand deeper study. "We're not saying there's anything

there, but we think there's something there," said Paul D. Russell, chief engineer for airplane safety engineering. "We ought to study it. We think culture may be a player."

The question is sensitive, because it inevitably raises the issue of race, and because Boeing runs the risk of inadvertently insulting some of its customers. But the initial survey of cultural differences and accident rates offers some surprises.

Boeing relied on a "cultural index" produced by Geert H. Hofstede, an anthropologist at the Institute of International Culture in the Netherlands.

lands. Mr. Hofstede has rated most countries on four factors:

• MASCULINITY, or need for "ostentatious manliness."

• UNCERTAINTY AVOIDANCE, the extent to which cultures are threatened by the unknown.

• INDIVIDUALISM.

• POWER DISTANCE, or how much influence a person has over another who is seen as less powerful.

Boeing then compared each factor with each country's accident rate per million departures.

MASCULINITY and uncertainty

avoidance seemed to have almost no relevance to accident rates. But there was a clear correlation between accident rates and the other two factors.

Countries with a high rate of individualism had low accident rates, while countries where people in lower positions tend to defer more to superiors had higher accident rates.

Countries with both low individualism and a large "power distance" index appear to have accident rates 2.6 times greater than those at the other end of the scale.

The lowest accident rates were in

the United States, Australia, Britain,

Canada, New Zealand and most West European countries. In the middle were Japan, India, Argentina, Brazil, Iran, Greece, Turkey and a few other countries. At the top, with the worst rates were most Latin American countries — including Panama, Colombia and Venezuela — and Asian countries such as Korea, China, Pakistan and Thailand.

"We're not handing this up as the Holy Grail," said a Boeing spokesman, stressing that the company was relying on someone else's research, and that numerous other factors have a bearing on aviation safety.

On September 21st, the IHT will publish the first in a two-part series of Special Reports on

Infrastructure and Development

Among the topics to be covered are:

- The link between infrastructure projects and living standards in Asia.
- China's Three Gorges dam, the world's largest hydropower project.
- The \$20 billion Hong Kong airport.
- Power plants, road building and other projects in Indonesia.

An extra 1,000 copies of the supplement will be distributed in Jakarta on 17th at the World Infrastructure Forum - Asia 1994, to which the IHT has been appointed the Official Publisher.

For further information, please contact Bill Maher in Paris at (33-1) 46 37 93 78, fax: (33-1) 46 37 50 44.

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THE AMERICAS / THE GUN-HATERS

A Comeback Victory for Clinton Late Push for Crime-Bill Foiled Rifle Group

By Ann Devroy
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Shortly before midnight Saturday, President Bill Clinton and his senior aides, lobbying frantically for the crime bill from the White House, were beginning to fear that nine days of struggling to rescue the bill would disappear into a hole that the gun lobby had helped dig.

It was not that the National Rifle Association and its allies had added any more votes against gun control. As Representative Jack Brooks, a Texas Democrat, said on the floor Sunday, "The people who hate guns are in the majority right now."

It was that the opponents of gun control had put together an alternative crime bill — containing no ban on assault weapons, no death penalty and little crime-prevention money — that again gave Republicans, Mr. Clinton's new friends, 40 to 50 conservative Democrats and perhaps even some members of the Congressional Black Caucus a reason to vote against him.

Congress would still get a crime package to present to voters, and one they could call a leaner, meaner scaled-back version at that. For about 24 hours, the perfect outcome of it sent waves of fear through a White House already burned by its unexpected setback on crime legislation Aug. 11.

By Sunday evening, the effort had collapsed under a strong assault by the president, his top aides and the Democratic leadership, combined with a major boost from Republicans. The comeback victory keeps Mr. Clinton's head above water in

the sea of troubles that has washed over his presidency this summer.

Administration officials, tired but relieved, said the House success did not guarantee a Senate success, and passage of a crime bill may mean little to the debate over the far larger issue of health care reform.

Mr. Clinton said he had been under "great pressure" to drop the ban on assault weapons,

NEWS ANALYSIS

and his aides said that in this fight he should be given credit for refusing to back down despite arguments that to do so would ensure an easier victory. This latest struggle is proof, if not of presidential power, at least of presidential conviction,

that again gave Republicans, Mr. Clinton's new friends, 40 to 50 conservative Democrats and perhaps even some members of the Congressional Black Caucus a reason to vote against him.

Congress would still get a crime package to present to voters, and one they could call a leaner, meaner scaled-back version at that. For about 24 hours, the perfect outcome of it sent waves of fear through a White House already burned by its unexpected setback on crime legislation Aug. 11.

By Sunday evening, the effort had collapsed under a strong assault by the president, his top aides and the Democratic leadership, combined with a major boost from Republicans. The comeback victory keeps Mr. Clinton's head above water in



Leon Panetta, left, a Clinton aide, celebrating with Representative Jack Brooks of Texas.

CRIME: Struggle Over Measure Moves to the Senate

Continued from Page 1

of Delaware, accused Senate Republicans of being "obstructionists" and predicted that political momentum and public opinion would produce the necessary 60 votes to force a final vote and send the crime bill to Mr. Clinton for his signature.

The legislation, which would be the first major crime bill enacted in six years, would allocate \$30 billion over six years from a new trust fund to hire 100,000 local police officers, build state prisons and launch crime-prevention efforts.

Before the ban on assault weapons, the bill's provisions would vastly expand the federal death penalty and impose life imprisonment on repeat violent offenders.

With Democrats hoping that the politically appealing bill would finally pull the crime issue away from Republicans, this fall's elections provided a partisan backdrop for an emotional floor debate about the nation's greatest public concern at the moment. The randomness and viciousness of sensational crimes have raised anxieties about violence.

Representative Cynthia McKinney, Democrat of Georgia, a member of the Congressional Black Caucus member who supported the bill despite the cut made in crime prevention, said the compromise "contains an ounce of prevention, a pound of punishment and a ton of politics."

One last-minute amendment would protect current owners of large-capacity gun clips, which do not bear serial numbers, from malicious prosecutions. The authorities would have to prove that the clips had been acquired after the ban went into effect.

The amendment was drafted by Representative John D. Dingell, Democrat of Michigan, who guided the change into the bill on behalf of the National Rifle Association.

Just before he voted for the bill, however, Mr. Dingell announced his resignation from the rifle association's board, saying, "I find the conflict between my duties as a member of Congress and my duties as a board member of the National Rifle Association irreconcilable."

Representative Jack Brooks, Democrat of Texas, another opponent of gun control, had made persistent efforts to win concessions from Democratic leaders, who rejected several proposed amendments to soften the effect of the assault-weapon ban.

In the end, it was he who conceded. "I have spent hours and hours, days and days, trying to get an amendment to the assault weapons bill," he said. "First, I tried to kill it. I have been very unsuccessful."

Away From Politics

• Two fires roared uncontrollably and partially unfought through northwestern Montana. The worst blaze covered 12,000 acres (4,850 hectares) in Flathead National Forest. Elsewhere in the West, more than 18,700 fire fighters were battling 30 major fires in Idaho, Montana, Utah, Oregon, Washington and California.

• Helicopters swarmed over Detroit neighborhoods, searching for 6 of 10 inmates who escaped from a prison after men on the outside threw a gun and wire cutters over the fence. The police caught the other four within hours of the breakout.

• A car packed with passengers ran into another vehicle on a highway in Washington, killing 11 people. The accident occurred about two miles (three kilometers) north of Wenatchee in the central part of the state.

• A swimmer was in critical condition after falling 25 feet (7.6 meters) from a water tower during a mock gunfight at a theme park in Buena Park, California. Jay Mead, 29, was supposed to fall onto a safe landing area, but missed his mark and hit the ground.

New Weapons May Get Ax In Pentagon

By John Mintz
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon leadership has ordered the military services to plan for possible cancellation or delay of nearly every large new weapons system in the planning or development stages.

In a memorandum Thursday, Deputy Defense Secretary John M. Deutch asked the army, navy and air force to draw up specific alternatives for major weapons. The savings would pay for "improvements in other areas."

Mr. Deutch's memo alarmed the military services and contractors.

The memo, obtained by The Washington Post, was intended by Mr. Deutch to be "a huge wake-up call" to the services that they will have to delay or eliminate hardware programs or face deep cuts in other areas, a Pentagon official said.

Mr. Deutch is "telling people to take notice because we have very tough decisions coming," the official said.

With the support of Defense Secretary William J. Perry, Mr. Deutch is searching for budget cuts because of costly operations like Somalia, Haiti and now Cuba.

Last month, the General Accounting Office said the Defense Department had underestimated costs and exaggerated savings, and would therefore find itself \$150 billion short over the next five years.

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"We must not unthinkingly drift into attitudes and manners which undermine the traditional politeness and deference Asian children have for their parents and elders," he said.

Mr. Goh added that the indulgent upbringing of children in America had brought sorry consequences.

He used the teenager Michael Fay as an example. The youth received four lashes of a rattan cane and spent 83 days in a Singapore prison after he and other foreign youths were accused of vandalizing cars and other mischief in a 10-day spree last September.

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"Michael Fay, back in Amer-

Singapore's Rules for Teens

Don't Call Dad by His First Name, Don't Follow the West

The Associated Press

SINGAPORE — Using an American teenager who was caned here as an example, Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong says that Singapore society would be in danger if traditional family and moral values decline as they have in the West.

Among other things, he urged local children to refrain from calling their fathers by their first names.

In an annual speech that usually sets the agenda for this strictly run island, Mr. Goh warned Sunday that over-indulging children and misguided compassion erodes family values.

"Societies can go wrong quickly," he said. "U.S. and British societies have changed profoundly in the last 30 years. Up to the early '60s, they were disciplined, conservative, with

the family very much the pillar of their societies."

"Many American children call their fathers by their first names and treat them with casual familiarity," he continued.

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Herald INTERNATIONAL Tribune

POLITICAL NOTES★

Partisan Fears Open Wounds in House

WASHINGTON — Rarely has the House of Representatives been more ready for a recess. Capitol Hill has become an edgy, unhappy place in recent weeks, and the reasons run deeper than the grueling fight over the crime bill, the long delay of the August break or the immensity of the health-care challenge.

Many lawmakers say it has simply become one of the most partisan sessions they can remember. Yes, there are moments of bipartisan cooperation, such as the hump of the "mainstream coalition" for a health-care compromise in the Senate, or the moderate Republicans' efforts in the House on the deal for a crime bill. But those moments stand out, in part, because of their rarity.

More typical is the bipartisan wariness, the suspicions of bad faith, even the open animus. Representative Newt Gingrich of Georgia, the Republican whip in the House, inveighed in an interview last week about "left-wing ideologues" in the White House working with "a bunch of machine politicians" in Congress, trying "to run over the rest of the country."

Two-and-a-half months before the midterm elections, Republicans sense vast opportunities to pick up seats in Congress, particularly in the House, while Democrats see significant danger.

Many Democrats seethed when Representative Dick Armey of Texas, the head of the Republican conference, told them during a recent debate over the crime bill, "Your president is just not that important to us."

There are deeper trends behind the partisanship in the House, which are related to 40 straight years of Democratic control. Of the 178 Republicans now in the House, not one has ever served in the majority; 13 of them were not even born in 1952, when the Republicans last won a majority. This near-permanent minority status has led, perhaps inevitably, to the ascendancy of a far more aggressive, far more confrontational kind of Republican leader.

In other words, to Newt Gingrich.

Mr. Gingrich has much to do with the climate on Capitol Hill these days. He articulates the frustrations of House Republicans, who assert that the Democrats systematically use their control of the rules to deny Republicans any meaningful role in shaping or debating legislation. And he profoundly annoys the Democrats.

Newt Gingrich has made the House a much more partisan place," said Representative Charles E. Schumer, Democrat of New York. "The higher he gets in the power structure, the more partisan it becomes."

Mrs. Clinton Leads Husband in Popularity

NEW YORK — Hillary Rodham Clinton remains popular among Americans despite her central role in the contentious issue of health-care reform, according to a survey, which found that Mrs. Clinton enjoyed a 56 percent positive rating, far higher than the president's 40 percent approval rating.

Forty-one percent said they believed that she had too much power, while just 3 percent said she had too little. A majority said she had "about the right amount" of power. The poll was conducted between July 25 and 28 of 1,249 adults. It has a statistical margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points.

(Reuters)

Quote/Unquote

Representative Susan Molinari, Republican of New York, on the bipartisan coalition that saved President Bill Clinton from defeat on the crime bill: "It only happens when the Democrats need us. It may send the Democratic Party a signal that they can save themselves a lot of heartache and embarrassment if they do it this way."

(NYT)



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Simpson Blood Found Similar To Sample From Murder Site

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — O.J. Simpson's blood has the same genetic makeup as blood found at the site where his former wife and her friend were slain, according to sophisticated DNA tests called RFLP, and the results showed that the banding pattern of that blood matched Mr. Simpson's, according to the court papers.

Two samples from a blood stain leading away from the murder scene showed a match with Mr. Simpson's blood, according to results of a group of tests called PCR.

The results of the tests at a Maryland laboratory were contained in court papers filed by prosecutors, who are hoping to link Mr. Simpson to the kill-

4,000 Refugees Cross Into Zaire but More Are Stuck at Border

By Keith Richburg
Washington Post Service

BUKAVU, Zaire — About 4,000 Rwandan Huts refugees moved into Zaire on Monday after long delays and confusion at a border crossing point, but tens of thousands more remained in Rwanda, unable to flee because the United Nations could not find enough trucks to transport them to camps.

The border crossing, a bridge over Ruzizi River, opened at dawn but Zairian troops closed it four hours later after about 3,000 Rwandans had crossed.

Most of the refugees crossed on foot, and some moved immediately to set up their tents in the town center, apparently in violation of an agreement between Zairian authorities and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Zaire reopened the bridge for a few hours in the late afternoon, to allow for a further, smaller exodus before nightfall. The United Nations agreed that any more Rwandans coming across into Zaire would be loaded onto trucks immediately at the foot of the bridge and taken directly to designated refugee campsites.

"They insisted that people be brought straight into the camps in trucks," said Kris Janowski, a spokesman for the UN refugee agency.

With an estimated 40,000 Rwandans still waiting to cross the bridge, or on the road to the border from southwest Rwanda, he said it could take a week

to 10 days to move all of the refugees trying to flee Rwanda. Meanwhile, the United Nations was having difficulties at a new site, called Hongo, where the refugees are supposed to be housed. Zairians living around the site, about a half-hour drive from the border, asserted that the land had been taken illegally and that the United Nations had no right to settle refugees there.

On Monday, Zairians surrounded and harassed UN officials taking the first group of refugees to the site, but there was no violence. UN officials have said the land was leased from a private owner, and Mr. Janowski said the governor of South Kivu Province had promised to provide added security at the site.

The Zairians want to keep the refugees out of Bukavu, which is already clogged with more than 100,000 Rwandan refugees.

■ Report on Rwanda Justice

President Pasteur Bizimungu of Rwanda said Monday that two members of the Rwandan Patriotic Front had been executed and 60 others were awaiting trial for acts of revenge against people perceived to be killers. Agence-France Presse reported from Kigali, Rwanda.

The two were tried, convicted and sentenced to death by a court martial in June during the civil war between the Front and the former government, he said at a news conference.



The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, and Prime Minister Tomio Murayama in Tokyo on Monday. Mrs. Ogata asked Japan to send personnel to Rwanda.

CUBA: Boatlift Is Unabated Despite New U.S. Policy

Continued from Page 1
mar was another young man wearing a necklace of string and beads.

"Even if they don't let us into the United States," he said, "they say they'll send us to a third country. Fine, I'll go to a third country, I'll go to a fifth country. I'll go to France or Panama or Venezuela or anywhere."

"I'd even go to Haiti, and that's the worst," Juan piped in. "We just want to get out of here, and once we're out, wherever they send us we'll end up in the United States eventually."

News of the new U.S. policy was widely broadcast in the official Cuban media and was portrayed as a fresh attempt by

the United States to undermine the Cuban revolution.

Although the official line in Cuba is to label the rafters "illegal immigrants," just as it is in the United States, the Cuban authorities are not taking any overt measures to halt or discourage the exodus.

On Saturday night, 48 hours after Attorney General Janet Reno announced the new policy, six men and two women, all in their 20s or 30s, carried a raft down to the beach at La Boca, about 25 kilometers (15 miles) west of Havana.

They set the craft down on the sand and began their goodbyes to several relatives and friends.

A woman dressed in shorts

Continued from Page 1

stated with their vote an unusually strong faith in the future.

Even Mr. Fernández, the conservative runner-up, declared in a speech late Sunday that although Mexico continues to search for its destiny, "We Mexicans must be confident in the change we have started. To

day, Mexico is different. Today, Mexico is better."

Mr. Zedillo promised Mexicans a greater focus on the domestic economy while assuring Washington he would not veer from the free-market structures stipulated in the trade agreement.

His greatest challenge will be to honor his foreign trade commitment while grappling with growing income disparities at home, where nearly half the country lives at or near the poverty level. Because the trade agreement requires Mexico to phase out its heavily subsidized economic system and increasingly rely on free-market forces, Mr. Zedillo will have to find innovative ways to elevate his electorate's living standards.

The sector of the population from which Mr. Zedillo drew the vast majority of his support consists of farmers, blue-collar workers and housewives whose incomes average less than \$400 per month, according to an exit survey conducted by U.S. pollster Warren Mitofsky. The poll, which included rural and urban respondents from all 31 Mexican states, was sponsored by The Washington Post and other major U.S. news organizations.

More than half of the respon-

dents said their voting choice was based on habit and party loyalty.

But by voting to keep the PRI in power, they were not necessarily saying they were happy with the status quo.

Sixty-five percent of the respondents said they wanted Mr. Salinas's successor to "make changes" in the existing economic policies.

The nation's attention was captured by the rebel Zapatista National Liberation Army in Chiapas, which sent a dual message to Mr. Salinas: Mexico's poor could no longer be ignored, and the people were tired of the corruption.

There was no way of telling how the uprising affected Sunday's election. But the chief advocate of the Zapatista struggle, Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas Solórzano, the liberal presidential candidate, garnered less than 20 percent of the vote.

Chiapas itself experienced one of the highest turnout rates

in the nation, with some areas reporting more than 90 percent attendance at the polls. Although the Zapatistas agreed to take off their trademark ski masks and put down their weapons for the vote, the southern state was still troubled by Election Day violence.

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MEXICO: After Chaotic Year, Voters Opt for Stability

Continued from Page 1
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Just Like the Convicts Wear

German Resalers Capitalize on Global Demand for Jeans

By Brandon Mitchener
International Herald Tribune

FRANKFURT — The only

thing better than a new pair of Levi's 501s button-fly blue jeans, thousands of young Europeans agree, is an old, tattered pair once worn by a convict or cowboy — the rough, romantic customer that Levi Strauss & Co. depicts in its ads.

In Germany, Europe's biggest market for jeans of all kinds, a small army of specialized resalers capitalizes on this.

Despite the best efforts of

Levi Strauss to make its new jeans look and feel old, there is

no getting around the fact that

"used jeans" look better and

feel better," said Thomas Schumann, founder and manager of S.A.L.E., one of Germany's biggest used-jeans whole-

salers.

Indeed, in Germany, an annual 1 billion Deutsche mark (\$650 million) jeans market, a new pair of 501s usually sells for more than 100 DM and an ordinary used pair often costs that much, or more.

Mr. Schumann's S.A.L.E. has grown from nothing to sales of 2.5 million DM and four full-time employees in less than three years, about the time the local used-jeans fad began.

"We used to sell new jeans, too, but we found the old jeans sold better," said Mr. Schumann, 29.

While most of the used jeans sold in Germany are hand-downs from ordinary, law-abiding citizens, Mr. Schumann said some of the jeans he sells really were worn by prisoners and are collected from penitentiaries.

Wholesalers like Mr. Schumann buy used jeans for about 20 DM from West Coast distributors and then sell them to German retailers, who in turn sell them to young retro fashion fanatics for anywhere from 69 to 120 DM, depending on how many holes they have.

The ones with the biggest holes are in particular high demand in the eastern sections of Germany, according to Mr. Schumann.

Though S.A.L.E. has been selling as many as 50,000 pairs

of jeans a year, Mr. Schumann,

a former Lufthansa steward, is

just beginning to see a return on

his enterprise because of a

three-year legal battle with Levi

Strauss that ended recently in a

court-out-of-court settlement.

While Levi Strauss officially

claims the used jeans market

does not compete with its own

sales of new jeans, it took

S.A.L.E. to court in 1991 after

the company started selling

501s dyed bright orange, yellow, turquoise and other colors.

Mr. Schumann declined to

say how much the legal battle or

settlement had cost S.A.L.E.

other than to say it "consumed

all our profit."

Continued expansion has be-

gun to compensate for the loss

of revenue from dyed denim,

demand for which fizzled when

the supply was cut off, and

S.A.L.E. has taken the "used"

idea a step further with the in-

roduction of a line of shirts and

sweaters made from "recycled"

cotton fabric.

"We already had a name and

an image, and it's not bad to

have a second leg to stand on,"

said Mr. Schumann, predicting

the idea would make new

friends.

JEANS: A California Gold Rush

Continued from Page 1

out of tents or the backs of

truck-trailers.

The bulk of the market is

abroad. It doubtless helps that

most used jeans are cheaper

than new Levi's, which cost \$80

to \$100 overseas, compared

with about \$35 in the United

States.

Foreign youth is obsessed

with the American past. Used

Radio Hint On Hitch in North Korea Succession

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Six weeks after the death of Kim Il Sung, official press organizations are warning that "ambitious persons and conspirators" could undermine the party unless the question of the North Korean succession was solved soon.

Despite indications that Mr. Kim's son and heir apparent, Kim Jong Il, is in power, the failure of the younger Kim to publicly assume full leadership of the Worker's Party of the secretive Communist state has left Korea-watchers wondering whether there has been some problem with the succession, such as a power struggle or an unwillingness by Mr. Kim to assume the post.

The broadcast Sunday by Radio Pyongyang, summarized Monday by Radio Press, a media monitoring service, did not specifically indicate that such a struggle was going on, but it seemed to stray from other official proclamations that the issue of Kim Il Sung's succession had been settled.

"Historical experience shows that unless the problem of a successor of a revolutionary leader is solved correctly, ambitious persons and conspirators may, with a breach of faith, play with the party and its revolution," the broadcast said.

"This could have a very bad result, destroying the revolution and its foundation, thus making it difficult to realize the advancement of revolutionary victories."

Therefore, the correct solution of the successor's problem has been brought up as a serious issue for the future of the revolution."

South Korean officials interpreted the broadcast as indicating that the period of mourning for the senior Kim, who died July 8, was nearly over and that the official succession could be about to take place.

Korea-watchers noted that Sept. 9, the anniversary of the establishment of the North Korean government, could be a possible time for the announcement.



Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh, left, during debate Monday at a legislative session in Phnom Penh.

Cambodia Official Bars Media in Hostage Crisis

Reuters

PHNOM PENH — Prince Norodom Ranariddh, Cambodia's senior prime minister, on Monday ordered all journalists and diplomats out of southern Kampot Province where Khmer Rouge guerrillas are holding three Westerners hostage. He said he was hopeful of a positive outcome within two or three days if media attention were curtailed.

"Not only journalists but all diplo-

mats are to be withdrawn from Kampot," he said. "I'm not against the press but we want this case to be resolved quickly."

The prince criticized the media and the governments of Australia, France and Britain for giving him contradictory guidelines on freeing the hostages.

"Please don't tell me 'no ransom but no military action,'" he said. He said the three governments would not endorse paying a ransom but opposed military action as a way to put pressure on the Khmer Rouge captors.

Mark Slater, 28, from Britain; Jean-Michel Bracquet, 27, of France; and David Wilson, 29, from Australia, were taken hostage by the Khmer Rouge on July 26. The Khmer Rouge demand \$150,000 for their release.

Nigeria Oil Officials See Crack in Strike

Reuters

LAGOS — Some of Nigeria's striking oil workers returned to their jobs Monday for the first time since their pro-democracy work stoppage began more than six weeks ago, industry officials said.

Meanwhile, a former military ruler of Nigeria, retired General Olusegun Obasanjo, was on trial for treason for proclaiming himself president in defiance of the current military ruler, General Sani Abacha. The oil workers are demanding his release and installation as president.

Faced with the pro-Abiola oil workers strike and riots, General Abacha last week sacked the leaders of the trade unions and

ordered their members back to their jobs.

Officials at several multinational oil firms in Nigeria said some workers appeared to have heeded the order but said it was too early to make a general assessment on whether the strike had been broken.

"There are a few more people here today than has been the case for some time," a spokesman for a major oil-producing company in Nigeria said.

"We are still assessing the situation," another oil company official said. "It takes time."

The Forcados oil terminal,

to a resolution of the conflict," said General Obasanjo, the only military ruler to have voluntarily relinquished power in Nigeria.

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Nuclear Black Market

Recent reports that German police have intercepted small amounts of nuclear material on Europe's black market are a chilling reminder that the end of the Cold War brings no guarantee of nuclear safety. Indeed, the disintegration of the former Soviet Union, with its huge stockpiles of weapons and nuclear materials, may actually make the world more dangerous than it was when such materials were under police-state control.

Surely there is no more urgent task before the world's governments than eradicating this embryonic trade. Yet Russia resists, and the Clinton administration has been slow to press the issue.

The materials intercepted in four recent incidents by German authorities were not in themselves a weapon threat — the amounts of plutonium and highly enriched uranium were too small and too impure to make a bomb. What is unnerving is that these small amounts appear to have been samples designed to generate future sales of larger amounts to foreign countries or terrorist groups eager to make nuclear weapons.

There is no evidence yet that any warheads or enough material for a bomb have actually been spirited out of Russia. But German officials were right to sound the alarm. The known seizures could be a mere fraction of the dangerous traffic.

The former Soviet Union relied on physical security at installations and close monitoring of its population to prevent anyone from making off with nuclear materials. With the police state gone, criminal

gangs proliferating and social turbulence rising conditions seem ripe for thefts. The most immediate need is for intensified police work to intercept smugglers. That will require an unusual degree of cooperation among police and intelligence agencies in Europe and the former Soviet Union, with help from the United States.

Stronger protective measures are also required at all military and civilian nuclear sites in the former Soviet bloc. At a minimum there must be an accurate inventory; even Russian officials acknowledge that they have lost track of who possesses what nuclear material.

Only the Russians can truly fix the security breakdown, and they are sending mixed signals. President Boris Yeltsin has promised to block the trade in nuclear contraband, and many Russian officials seem eager to upgrade security. But nationalist politicians and many atomic energy officials in Russia dismiss the concerns as Western propaganda. Unless responsible leaders prevail, the task appears hopeless.

Securing Russia's nuclear stockpiles is a matter of great urgency. Yet the Clinton administration, distracted by domestic battles and other foreign crises, has given it only fitful attention. No high-level official is working on the problem full-time, and diplomacy is going very slowly. As President Bill Clinton prepares for a meeting with Mr. Yeltsin in September, there is no more important issue for the White House to engage.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

China's Gender Balance

The philosophical tradition of Taoism is founded on the idea of balance, in nature and in human relations. Its core principles are yang and yin, symbolizing the dualities of light and dark, sky and earth, male and female. Taoist texts teach that nature and society seek balance, and that interfering with this natural arrangement can bring unhappy consequences. Chinese society is rediscovering this today. As Philip Shenon of The New York Times reported last week, the balance between male and female has been skewed.

Under government pressure to limit families to one child each, driven by tradition that favors boys, helped by ultrasound and readily available abortions, Chinese families have been messing with Mother Nature in an effort to make sure their one child is a boy. The result: a stark shortage of women of marriageable age, and a lot of lonely young men.

China is not the only populous country where this has happened; a similar phenomenon is occurring in India, according to United Nations figures. Prejudice against girls runs deep in both societies. Boys have traditionally been seen as

assets in agricultural families; their work in the fields was valued. Girls were regarded as a burden; they would only move away to live with their husbands' families, and had to be provided with dowries. At times in Chinese history, female infanticide was accepted practice.

Recent news reports from both countries have related that these prejudices die hard. In both India and China, poor families are known to feed their sons better than their daughters. Girls are less likely to survive childhood than boys. Now, with the relatively cheap new technology of ultrasound to help identify the sex of a fetus, families can use abortion to avoid girls altogether.

The unforeseen result, at least in China, is that suddenly young women are finding themselves valued in the society that once shunned them. They are being treated with new respect, and those of marriageable age can pick and choose from a large field of suitors. They have been rescued from disdain and oblivion by a highly impersonal and newly potent principle in Chinese life: market forces.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Other Jackals at Large

Ilich Ramirez Sanchez never deserved the near mythical reputation he seemed to gain as the terrorist Carlos the Jackal. To be sure, a bloody trail of shootings and bombings around the globe stretching back to the 1970s and '80s confirms his infamy as a cold-blooded murderer. But he was nothing more than that. When he was flown to France last week to stand trial for the murder of two French security agents, Carlos the Jackal had become Carlos the expendable. Now a hired gun without a patron, he was too useless for even Sudan — a shelterer of international terrorists. It was authorities in Khartoum who arrested and turned him over to the French.

That Carlos could have remained at large for so long is not so much a tribute to his elusiveness and skill at disguises as it is evidence of the handiwork of governments spurred to help him by motives as reprehensible as his own. From Communist Hungary, Czechoslovakia and East Germany came a network of safe houses and official support that prevented him from being brought to justice. From Syria came an asylum that he and his family reportedly enjoyed for much of the last 10 years. But it was from his work as a hireling for international extremists — including his Soviet bloc sponsors. Pal-

estinian guerrillas and radical Arab regimes — that Carlos was able to satisfy his blood lust and desire for notoriety. And it is for that that police and intelligence organizations have been on his heels for all these years.

While there are no outstanding U.S. warrants against Carlos (he apparently never targeted American citizens), Americans ought to be pleased that he has been caught and will be made to account for at least a few of the terrorist attacks he committed against innocent people. France ought to ensure that he gets all that he has coming.

The French, who hunted Carlos for 20 years, deserve applause for their coup. And the Sudanese are entitled to thanks — although not, in light of their links to other international terrorists, to absolution — for their cooperation in the capture. Carlos's imprisonment makes the world only a marginally safer place. His successors, though, the religious fanatics, the genocidal killers, the bombers on both sides in places like Northern Ireland and Bosnia, remain. Like the gang warlords and drug kingpins who are jackals in American streets, there is nothing at all mythical about their exploits, nothing remotely romantic about their terrorism.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

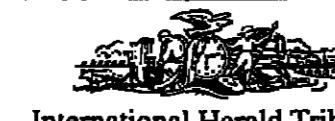
Other Comment

Northern Boost to the Union

Sweden, Norway, Finland and even Iceland seem well on their way to joining the European Union, with most of the political spectrum pushing for admission, albeit for different reasons. The left sees EU membership as a way of fostering the economic prosperity without which the expensive Scandinavian welfare states erected in the postwar period cannot sur-

vive. Conservative forces hope that Brussels will help them in their efforts to cut back the bloated welfare bureaucracies, and that EU membership will ultimately be the Scandinavians' best security guarantee against their big neighbor to the east, despite the vagueness of European security policy for the time being. In any case, the Scandinavians have as much to contribute to Europe as to gain from it.

— Neue Zürcher Zeitung (Zurich).



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International Herald Tribune, 181 Avenue Charles-de-Gaulle, 92521 Neuilly-sur-Seine, France.
Tel.: (1) 46-37-93-00. Fax: Cc., 46-37-06-51; Adv., 46-37-52-12. Internet: IHT@eurotelenet.
Editor for Asia: Michael Richardson, 3 Canterbury Rd, Singapore 0511. Tel: (65) 274-2334
Mng. Dir. Asia: Rolf D. Krueger, 15, 6023 Frankfurt/M, Tel: (069) 72-07-55. Fax: (069) 72-10-70
Gen. Mgr. Germany: T. Schäfer, Friedrichstr. 15, 6023 Frankfurt/M, Tel: (069) 72-07-55. Fax: (069) 72-10-70
Pres. U.S.: Michael Connolly, 850 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022. Tel: (212) 752-3890. Fax: (212) 755-0765
U.K. Advertising Office: 63 Long Acre, London WC2A 2LP. Tel: (071) 240-2254.
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A Brutal Feudal Minority May Be Destroying Nigeria

By Wole Soyinka

LONDON — There was once a thriving habitation of some half a million people in southeastern Nigeria, the land of the Ogoni. It is an oil-producing area that suffered much ecological damage. That damage has received world publicity largely due to the efforts of a passionate writer called Ken Saro-Wiwa, himself an Ogoni.

A leader of the Movement for the Salvation of the Ogoni People, he exposed the plight of Ogoni to the UN Minorities Council, calling for the recognition of the Ogoni people as one of the world's endangered minorities. He agitated for compensation for damaged crops, polluted fishing ponds and the general destruction of what was once an organic economic existence of his people.

That was some two or three years ago. Now Ken Saro-Wiwa is held in chains in a hidden prison, incommunicado. He is seriously ill with a heart condition and is totally at the mercy of a gloating sadist, a self-avowed killer and torturer of the military species, specially selected for the "pacification" of Ogoniland.

Mr. Saro-Wiwa's people have taken to the forests and mangrove swamps to survive. Those who remain in townships and villages are subjected to displacement, expropriation of their property, violence and rape. Ogoniland has been declared a "military zone."

lot. It justifies the saturation of Ogoniland with military killer squads.

Ogoniland is only the first Nigerian experiment with "ethnic cleansing," authorized and sustained by the despot general. The agony of the Ogoni augurs a far more thorough subjugation for other parts of Nigeria, also in the South.

Ogoniland is, alas, only the model space for the actualization of a long dreamt-of totalitarian onslaught on the more politically sophisticated sections of the Nigerian polity, which have dared expose the power obsession of a minuscule but obdurate military-civilian hegemony.

The Ogoni people are, alas, only the guinea pigs for a morbid resolution of this smoldering inequity that was instituted by the British. The beneficiaries remain, till today, a minority made up of a feudal oligarchy and their pampered, indolent and unproductive scions.

The myth of uncritical political solidarity in the North was not only recently exploded. Its falsity had been made manifest in earlier elections — 1979 and 1983 especially. But these were so blatantly rigged that the positive signals were drowned in the hue and cry that followed. So in a sense it was not until the elections of June 12, 1993, universally acclaimed a model of fairness, that the collapse of that fiction became irrefutable.

The pattern of voting also made it abundantly clear that the so-called gulf between the North and the South was an invention and that there was a line of division in the North — between the workers, peasants, civil servants, petty traders, students and unemployed on the one hand, and the parasitic elite and feudal scions on the other.

After a few noises of realism and surrender to a popular, democratic will, the proboscates of the old order recovered their breath and recollected their interests. The latest instrument of their feudal despotic will is General Abacha.

The media and public debate — at bars, bus stops, the markets, the motor garages, staff and student clubs, government offices — have resulted in much questioning of the assumption that the nation is a single entity. On June 23, 1993, the day of the annulment of the national presidential election, the military committed the most treasonable act of larceny of all time: it violently robbed the Nigerian people of their nationhood.

We may be witnessing, alas, the end of Nigerian history.

The writer, a Nigerian novelist who received the 1986 Nobel Prize in Literature, is chairman of the African Democratic League, a Lagos-based human rights group. A longer version of this commentary appeared in The New York Times.

An Important Role for an Evolving CSCE: Preventive Diplomacy

By John J. Maresca

WASHINGTON — At the Paris summit meeting of 1990, when the leaders of 36 states signed the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, hopes were high that the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe would form the basis for a new relationship among the nations of Europe and North America.

The CSCE played a key role in opening up Communist societies and ending the Cold War. But in the messy lukewarm peace that has followed, the CSCE has slipped into obscurity.

It has suffered in part from overblown expectations. Political leaders and national bureaucracies all wanted to load it with pet projects.

Its core structure has remained weak and unable to manage these activities well. And the CSCE seemed unable to deal with Europe's most urgent security problems.

A CSCE mission in Georgia is seeking a peaceful solution to the conflict in South Ossetia. The CSCE Minsk Group has created a face-to-face negotiating process to seek an end to the Nagorno-Karabakh war. The list goes on.

The CSCE can go places NATO cannot, because it yields no military threat and includes all the states of Europe, North America and the former Soviet Union on an equal basis.

CSCE monitors were actively watching over the human rights of ethnic Albanians in Kosovo until the Serbian government judged them too effective and asked them to leave. A CSCE mission was the first to arrive in Skopje, the capital of newly independent Macedonia.

CSCE missions in Estonia and Latvia are helping to defuse tension between ethnic Russians and indigenous peoples.

A CSCE mission in Georgia is seeking a peaceful solution to the conflict in South Ossetia. The CSCE Minsk Group has created a face-to-face negotiating process to seek an end to the Nagorno-Karabakh war. The list goes on.

Preventive diplomacy is by definition tedious and low-key. But it is far cheaper than peacekeeping, reconstruction or war.

We need to strengthen this process. The traditional functions of the CSCE need not be downgraded. Its emphasis on human rights, openness, economic liberty, rule of law and democracy is more important than ever.

To perform effectively, the CSCE needs strong leadership and a more developed structure, and its operations should be concentrated in one place. The chairmanship of the CSCE rotates among member countries' foreign ministers on a one-year basis. But no foreign minister can give this job the attention it requires. Foreign ministers in the chairman role rarely even visit Vienna, the CSCE's main place of business.

The secretary-general position currently has only administrative responsibilities and no real authority. It cannot provide necessary leadership. The CSCE has virtually no permanent staff. Its institutions and meetings are scattered all over Europe. These features should be corrected and the organization's structure streamlined.

The next summit meeting of the CSCE, to be held in Budapest in early December, will provide an opportunity to strengthen the organization and sharpen its focus on preventive diplomacy.

Leading CSCE member states need to propose steps that will consolidate the organization's activities in one place under full-time secretary-general of ministerial stature, and give that position the authority to guide the organization effectively.

The writer, former U.S. ambassador to the CSCE, is a guest scholar at the United States Institute of Peace. He contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

France and Algeria: When the Status Quo Is No Longer Supportable

By William Pfaff

PARIS — The United States has Sudan on its list of outlaw states, saying that it sponsors Islamic fundamentalist terrorism. France finds that a logical reason for getting on better terms with Sudan. Who better to talk with about the problem of terrorism than those in a position, if not to call it off, at least to damp it down?

A number of large conclusions have been drawn from Sudan's handing over of Carlos the terrorist to French justice. The principal significance, however, is what it reveals — or, better, confirms — about French foreign policy.

One of the two major preoccupations of French policy today is the Islamic fundamentalism. (The other is France's relationship with Germany, in the context of Europe's development.) Algeria, which until 1962 was a dépendance

want to live under the social and political repression of a fundamentalist government.

The policy of Paris therefore is a double one. France formally supports the present military-backed "transitional" Algerian government's harsh campaign against fundamentalist militants. (The fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front won the first round of national elections in 1991; the government canceled the second round, and there has been mounting violence ever since.)

France's interior minister, Charles Pasqua, recently criticized Germany and the United States because fundamentalist militants are allowed to function in France, but also thousands if not hundreds of thousands of ordinary Algerians who do not

think to be linked to fundamentalist militancy.

However, the French are also remiss. There have been complicated and ambiguous transactions conducted in obscurity between France and Sudan, some of them allegedly facilitating the Sudanese government's war against the Christian and animist peoples in southern Sudan who resist the country's Muslim government.

France's intention is to gain Sudan's help in dealing with the Algerian fundamentalists. Not in communicating or negotiating with them — that could be done in a Paris restaurant — but in influencing them.

The supposed theoretician of Sudan's military government is a Paris-and-London-trained Muslim intellectual and academic, Hassan Tourabi, now dean of the Kartoum University Law School, formerly a high government official. He is accused by many in the West, as well as by the Algerian and some other secular Arab governments, of being an ideologue of terrorism.

However, he is himself quoted as criticizing the Iranian revolution for its "lack of maturity and of values." He says the fundamentalist government of Saudi Arabia is merely a family dictatorship, where, among its other faults, the situation of women is very bad. His own country, he says, is trying "an experiment which has only begun" but which is meant to avoid the excesses or errors of Iran and Saudi Arabia.

The French believe that he is at least a man the West can talk with, while acknowledging (as a profile of him by the French journalist Gilles Millet observes) that he speaks "a double language," simultaneously lending support to the demands of the most radical fundamentalists abroad and

to the demands of the most moderate of the West. As Al From of the Democratic Leadership Council recently pointed out, the president needs help from a broad coalition, just as he had with NAFTA.

He has an opportunity here, but it won't be easy. To be successful in obtaining GATT confirmation by Congress, he will have to win the backing not only of the old pro-NAFTA coalition but also of a group of pro-environment members of Congress who want the administration to ensure that protection of the environment will be a priority in future trade discussions.

But if he goes far enough in this direction to satisfy the environmentalists, he risks losing support from Republicans, who don't want the environmentalists dedicated to future deals.

The Washington Post.

growth in the second quarter was the fastest in two years, stimulated by a big bulge in manufactured exports.

Thus, some wonder why Mr. Clinton,



Subway Stylists Grace New York

By William Grimes
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — At the 116th Street subway station, near Columbia University, riders have a choice. They can drop down in the standard-issue seats, or they can sit in "Railrider's Throne," a steel artwork designed by Michelle Greene, and wait for the train in regal postmodern splendor.

Arts for Transit, a program of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, placed "Railrider's Throne" in the station three years ago. Like the revolving cube in Astor Place, the heroically proportioned chair, which follows the station's diamond tile motifs, has won a following. Riders approach, circle and appraise it. Some sit. Others watch. The thing is popular.

It is also on its way to becoming the rule rather than the exception in the city's subway stations. Since 1985, Arts for Transit, New York's least orthodox commissioner of public art, has placed 50 works in the subway stations, the stations of the Long Island Rail Road and the Metro-North Commuter Railroad and the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel. Forty more artworks have been commissioned or are in the planning stages.

So far, Arts for Transit's permanent program has installed more than \$2 million worth of art, extending geographically from R. M. Fischer's giant Deco clock at the entrance to the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel to Orlando Bristeno's cast-aluminum relief sculptures on the platform columns at the North White Plains station of Met-North.

"I believe there are two places where it's important to have art: one is schools, the other is subways," said Wendy Feuer, the director of Arts for Transit. "I believe

people love art and want it in their lives." Whether they want it in the subways or not, Arts for Transit is giving it to them, in a wide variety of forms, created by artists known and unknown.

The seeds of the current program were planted in 1982. "Two things happened," Feuer said. "The city got a percent-for-art law, and the MTA under Richard Ravitch got its first capital program." As a state agency, the transportation authority was not bound by the art law, which stated that 1 percent of the construction budget of public buildings should be set aside for art.

In 1985, Arts for Transit was established as a division of the transit authority. In addition to the permanent arts program, which is run by Sandra Bloodworth, it mounts temporary exhibitions, establishes exhibition centers that present shows with curators from lesser-known cultural institutions and presents musical performances.

For each station that the transportation authority has decided to place art in, an artist is chosen by a panel generally consisting of two arts professionals, one artist and an architect from the relevant transit agency.

LOOKING over the entire enterprise is a knotty question: What makes good subway art? The question has a practical and an aesthetic component. "Doable and durable is our driving concern," Bloodworth said. In this sense, a good work is a sturdy work that requires no maintenance.

The art should also be popular. "I think it's important for the work to be visually accessible," Bloodworth said. "It's important that the public get it, although they don't have to on the first take."

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Hemingway Revival at the Ritz

By Mary Blume
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Making its contribution to the celebrations of the liberation of Paris, the Hotel Ritz will re-open its Hemingway bar on Aug. 25, the day 50 years ago that the writer "liberated" the Ritz.

According to legend, Ernest Hemingway, wearing his war correspondent's uniform accessorized by a Sten gun, personally took two prisoners and considerable liquid refreshment. By the next day, when a fellow correspondent announced she was off to see the victory parade, Hemingway advised her not to budge: "Daughter, sit still and drink this good brandy. You can always watch parades but you'll never again celebrate the liberation of Paris at the Ritz."

The Rue Cambon entrance of the Ritz having been closed for several years for reasons of economy and logistics, the



Hemingway with bartender Berlin.

opening of the Cambon-side Hemingway bar marks a return to tradition as well as to profitable legend.

In the old days, the only Ritz bar was on

the Cambon side (it is now the Ritz Club, a combination discotheque and restaurant). The smaller bar opposite, not the Hemingway, was a writing room where ladies waited while men drank. In time, a waiter and later bartender named Berlin would bring the ladies drinks from the bar and in 1936 the writing room became Berlin's bar, open to both sexes.

Sentimentally profiting from its literary associations (it claims not only Hemingway and Fitzgerald but Sartre, Malraux, Proust and J. D. Salinger among its patrons), the hotel has announced that the Hemingway bar will be an evening literary haunt available not only for boozing but for book promotions and signings and star-gazing by those whose writing is confined to the signing of checks. Writers will even be able to receive their mail in care of the bar, provided they can pay the price of a drink. A special "Hemingway Bar Reserve" of rum will be available, as well as a selection of tapas, all of it giving a new sense to the phrase a moveable feast.



The writer, outfitted as a war correspondent, checks a road map on his way to liberate the Ritz 50 years ago.

Learning to Fulfill the Impossible

By Christopher Petkanas

PARIS — Renting a saxophone at 9 o'clock on a Thursday night for a guest at Boston's Ritz-Carlton was a piece of cake compared with the creation of a niche for the king of Morocco's chef in the basement kitchens of the Ritz in Paris. Considering that it was the hotel's two-star chef who was being passed over, the logistics required a lot of delicate seasonings.

And yet accommodating Hassan II was easy compared with satisfying a Mexican client at Paris's Hotel de Crillon who wanted the sense of a Limousin bull so that he could do his own breeding back home.

Obtaining musical instruments at seemingly unobtainable hours, conducting gastronomic diplomacy, godparenting bulls — all fall to the international hotel concierge, who does not appreciate being confused with the person behind the reception desk. Concierges are an expensive luxury, one of the most reliable indicators of the quality of a hotel. Of the hundreds of hotels in Paris, only 65 have them.

In France, the route to the job used to be through the ranks. You were only awarded the full title of chef concierge and the full privilege of dealing with guests' sometimes outrageous and amusing, often tedious and petty exigencies ("I want the color of my telephone changed — now!") after having served as bellhop, errand boy, bag-

gage handler, parking attendant, assistant concierge and concierge.

The International Concierge Institute changed all that. Founded in Paris in 1984, it is the only concierge school in the world, according to its director, Frédéric Berthet. Traditional hotel schools give instruction in front-office reception skills but nothing tailored to the post of concierge. The institute offers men and women aged 18 to 25 the road to a life of long hours on their feet, of dealing with other peoples' headaches, and of smiling across the desk even if you've just had bad news about a favorite grandmother. (That's one of the main things they teach you, to be nice no matter what.)

Romaine Zen Ruffinen, who graduated in May and who is now assistant concierge at the Noga Hilton in Geneva, says it would have taken her 20 years to work her way up from bellhop. By the time she left the school, she had completely absorbed Berthet's dictum that a concierge must be prepared to do everything for a guest — unless it's illegal.

Berthet, who was never a concierge himself but did work as an Air France steward and was deputy chief of protocol at the Paris City Hall for seven years, insists on absolute discretion.

"The raison d'être of the concierge is to be the confidante of the clientele," he says. "In this sense, he is the parallel of the barman. He hears from the guest a quanti-

ty of things. There is a tacit agreement among concierges that, in order to stay credible in this milieu, one must never write one's memoirs."

"See everything, hear everything and say nothing," notes Jérôme Palacour, who graduated with Ruffinen. He was the young man who helped locate the bullet

The institute's candidates must have a high school or equivalent hotel school education and write and speak reasonably well in two foreign languages. Tuition for the eight-month program is about \$4,250. The institute's uniform, which is obligatory, is composed of a black blazer and gray trousers or a black skirt, and costs about \$325. A typical school day would include mornings working as apprentices in a Paris hotel, and afternoons studying in the classroom in decoration, body language, geography, security and medical procedures.

The institute, which is nonprofit and is recognized by the French Education Ministry, is difficult to get into. Three out of four applicants are refused; only 206 students have completed the Paris course so far. A Budapest branch of the school was opened in 1986 and others in Montreal and Tokyo are to open in 1993 and 1996, respectively.

Christopher Petkanas is writing a history of the New York decorating firm Parish-Hadley.

The English Muffin Goes Gallic

By Dana Thomas

PARIS — It began on a whim. Michael Healey was in Amsterdam for New Year's two and a half years ago, when he decided to pop down to Paris. During a whirlwind tour, he met a girl and thought, why not stay on, learn French and hang out? He was in limbo, having lost his

statement by a master baker from 1979: the shiny brass tire gauge in its own velvet pouch. And this is the man who invented the Mini-Mag flashlight.

"I had to do something," says the 39-year-old New Jersey native. "I thought, my background is marketing and manufacturing. My biggest passion is food. Hmmm. Maybe baking. Maybe I'll make bread."

That, he soon realized, was truly a case of carrying coal to Newcastle.

His solution was the item known to Americans as the English muffin.

"There are only two types available here," he explained. "A brand from England, which tastes awful, and one imported from America, frozen. There were no fresh muffins, good muffins, anywhere."

So he embarked on a tour to find and make the quintessential English muffin. He started in London and traveled all over England, "only to find out that the English really don't eat English muffins."

Then one day looking in an ancient cookbook in a library, he found a recipe dating back to the 1600s. He also found a

Paris. "The first thing they did was cut it with a knife," he cried. "I had to keep explaining how to pull them apart with a fork." Finally, he realized he'd just have to make them pre-split.

The problem was a that a muffin splitting machine costs \$150,000. "There isn't much demand for them," he said with a shrug. He built his own instead, with pulleys and screws and a lot of time. "There's a saying among entrepreneurs," he laughs. "There's no real secret to success. Only perspiration."

Now, his muffins have replaced the buns in the burgers at Marshall's restaurant on Avenue Franklin D. Roosevelt, under the poached eggs Benedict at the Café de Mars in the 7th arrondissement, and at Sam Kearny's, Sydney's Coffee Shop and Henry's. In October, he hopes to sell them packaged to supermarkets and grocery stores.

And what about the girl? "She's still in the picture," he said.

Dana Thomas is a writer based in Paris.

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PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

MARKET DIARY

Dollar Doldrums

Burden Wall Street

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
NEW YORK — Stock prices slipped Monday amid concern about a weak dollar and a decline in shares of defense companies.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed down 3.89 points at 3,751.22.

Volume on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange was

U.S. Stocks

237.2 million shares. Declining shares outnumbered advances about 4 to 3.

The continued weakness in the dollar pushed bond prices lower on concerns that a weak dollar, which makes imports more expensive, could mean higher inflation later. It also could send away foreign investors to seek better returns elsewhere.

"Basically the stock market is trying to digest the problems in the dollar and bond markets," said Rao Chalasani, chief investment strategist at Kemper Securities.

"If the dollar continues to sell off, we will see more weakness in the bond market and in the stock market," said John Grovenor, president at Ladenburg, Thalmann & Co.

(Bloomberg, AP)

DOLLAR: Drags Down Europe

Continued from Page 9
 lars is eroding in step with the U.S. currency.

In Paris, the CAC-40 blue-chip index tumbled 1.43 percent, to 1,972.63, and in Frankfurt, the DAX lost 1.20 percent, to 2,123.79.

The dollar also burdened European bond markets, and stock investors said there was little

Foreign Exchange

hope for recovery until interest rates in the government securities market began to stabilize.

"It's the weak bonds, weak dollar and negative markets," said Ralf Maier, a trader with Bayerische Verwandschaft AG in Munich. "You cannot really find a substantial reason to buy."

British shares were weighed down by stronger-than-expected second-quarter gross domestic product data, which fueled concern that the Bank of England might raise rates to keep growth at a steady, sustainable pace.

The Financial Times-Stock Exchange 100-share index lost 0.63 percent, to 3,171.30.

The dollar's slide paused amid rumors that central banks, including the Bank of England,

By Associated Press

Aug. 22

The Dow

Daily closings of the Dow Jones Industrial average

Previous: 3,751.22

Mannesmann Cuts Its First-Half Loss

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

DUSSELDORF — Mannesmann AG said Monday its first-half net loss had narrowed substantially, to 27 million Deutsche marks (\$18 million), as economic recovery and its streamlining program began to pay off.

"Mannesmann is in a stable upward trend," said Joachim Funk, chief executive of the German engineering and telecommunications concern in a letter to shareholders. In the first half of 1993, the deficit amounted to 467 million DM.

Sales, at 14.2 billion DM, were up 10 percent, and orders rose 19 percent, to 16.9 billion DM.

Because of weak sales in January and February, results in the first half were still negative, but the company said it expected to make a profit for the full year, after losing 513 million DM in 1993.

Since 1985, the company, one of 30 blue-chip stocks in Germany's DAX stock index, has worked at diversifying into noncyclical businesses such as mobile phone services and electronics. Since then, outlays for restyling the company have run into the billions of marks.

Last year, Mannesmann blamed high startup costs in its cellular phone division in particular when it reported its net loss. In contrast, the company said its phone unit, Mannesmann Mobilfunk GmbH, recorded its first-ever earnings in the latest six months and forecast a return to profit this year for the group as a whole.

The Mobilfunk unit stood out with a 126 percent sales rise in the period, to 738 million DM.

Orders in the engineering and plant division were up 34 percent in the first half, and automotive orders rose 18 percent. But orders in the electronic division slid by 25 percent.

The earnings weren't enough to sustain Mannesmann's stock price, which followed the market's bearish trend, and ended at 451.50 DM, down from 457.00 Friday.

Separately, the chairman of Volkswagen AG, Ferdinand Piech, said Monday that he expected German car orders for the second half to be worse than the first half. Reuters reported from Paris.

He said he expected West European car sales in 1994 to be unchanged from 1993. As a result, the optimism seen earlier in the year had been eroded.

Wella Profit Rises

Wella AG said first-half pre-tax profit rose 14.4 percent from a year earlier on strong sales in Eastern Europe, Asia and the United States. Bloomberg Business News reported from Darmstadt, Germany.

Earnings at the hair-care concern rose to 75.5 million DM from 66.0 million DM in the year-earlier period.

Sales rose to 1.50 billion DM from 1.33 billion DM, supported by last year's acquisitions of SmithKline Beecham PLC's and Sebastian International Inc.'s hair-care divisions.

Russians Bet on a Loser

MMM Fund Revives and Draws a Crowd

Reuters

MOSCOW — Russians still gambling on dreams of getting rich quick, lined up in the rain Monday to buy shares in the country's best-known investment fund, ignoring a recent price collapse and warnings from the government.

The lines outside the offices of the MMM fund contrasted sharply with the scenes of panic at the end of last month, when the firm slashed the price of its shares to a pittance.

Then, anxious investors lined up in sunshine to dump their shares. This time, it was raining.

"I believe in MMM, and I

will buy five more shares," said an elderly woman, huddling under the hood of her jacket outside one MMM branch. "This instability is only temporary."

Government officials have said MMM is operating a classic pyramid operation, using revenue from sales of shares to fund an automatic buy-back. But officials said they were powerless to act because pyramid schemes were not illegal.

The company publicized its program with aggressive television commercials, promising ever-rising returns and annual dividends of 3,000 percent. But it never said where its money came

from or where it planned to invest.

Millions of Russians profited from the scheme for months, as prices of MMM shares rose and rose. But the bottom fell out of the market the day before, as shares made a moderate recovery by the close.

The firm slashed the price of its shares to 1,000 rubles (50 cents) from 115,000 rubles (\$34) before the crisis.

Its offices now sell special "tickets" dubbed Mavrodi-chile because they bear the portrait of the MMM chairman, Sergei Mavrodi. MMM says holders will be allowed to trade 100 certificates for one share—at some unspecified future time.

Ruble Falls as Central Bank Cuts Rates

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MOSCOW — The ruble slithered to a record low against the dollar Monday, a victim of government loans to ailing agriculture and traders' fears that the state will issue new credits to help companies survive.

Despite the currency's slide, Russia's central bank said it was cutting its three-month refinancing rate to 130 percent from 150 percent, the second rate cut this month and the seventh this year.

The government has hinted it will support industry, and there has been talk about the possibility of forgiving companies' debts," said Igor Doronin, a market analyst with the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange. "Such ideas are stirring up inflationary expectations and raising speculative activities."

The currency, which is not freely convertible

on world markets, has fallen 6 percent over the past month. It was quoted Monday at 2,171 to the dollar on the Moscow exchange, compared with 2,151 Friday. It was even weaker on the interbank market, dealers said.

A dealer from Delovaya Rossiya said some banks were selling dollars at the request of the central bank to help the bank try to prop up the ruble. Many dealers said they expected the slide to continue because the government's agriculture credits had artificially inflated the money supply.

Also on Monday, the central bank revoked banking licenses from five Russian commercial banks because of their "risky credit policy, nonobservance of capital requirements, loss-making activities and violations of accounting procedures." (Reuters, AFP)

Shekel's Fall Slight After Share Slide

Reuters

TEL AVIV — The shekel weakened against major international currencies Monday but showed little reaction to the plunge in Israel's stock market the day before, as shares made a moderate recovery by the close.

The dollar opened the daily tender at 3.016 shekels and closed at 3.019, compared with 3.018 Friday. The central bank's basket of major currencies rose to 3.3783 shekels from 3.3719 Friday.

Many Israelis were rattled when shares on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange fell nearly 10 percent Sunday in response to a capital-gains tax announced by the Finance Ministry last week. The shekel weakened against the yen and the Deutsche mark, with 100 yen valued at 3.0801 shekels, compared with 3.0663 Friday, and the mark quoted at 1.9679 shekels, compared with 1.9582.

Blue-chip shares on the stock exchange rallied to close moderately higher Monday, regaining some of Sunday's sharp losses. The benchmark General Share index rose 3.72 points, or 2.25 percent, to 168.90. The index fell 18.21 points, or nearly 10 percent, Sunday.

The government announced plans to modify the capital-gains tax on Sunday to quell the rush to sell, but investors say the rules are still unclear.

Investor's Europe

Frankfurt DAX	London FTSE 100 Index	Paris CAC 40
2300	2000	2000
2200	1900	2100
2100	1800	2000
2000	1700	1900
1900	1600	1800
M A M J J A	M A M J J A	M A M J J A
1994	1994	1994
Exchange	Index	Monday Close
Amsterdam AEX	409.33	412.45
Brussels Stock Index	7,558.07	7,551.10
Frankfurt DAX	2,123.79	2,149.57
Frankfurt FAZ	806.95	811.48
Helsinki HEX	1,058.90	1,076.12
London Financial Times 30	2,486.50	2,495.80
London FTSE 100	3,171.30	3,191.40
Madrid General Index	304.98	307.15
Milan MIBTEL	1080.00	1081.00
Paris CAC 40	1,972.63	2,001.33
Stockholm Aktierverket	1,854.84	1,894.12
Vienna Stock Index	454.88	458.62
Zurich SBS	908.85	915.79

Sources: Reuters, AFP

International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

- Compagnie Luxembourgeoise de Telediffusion and Walt Disney Co. said they were establishing a venture to launch a family television channel in Germany in January.
- Vickers PLC, the British engineering company, said it had had talks with Bayerische Motoren Werke AG and Mercedes-Benz AG over the possibility of co-operation on future models of its Rolls-Royce luxury cars.
- Alcatel-Alsthom SA of France said its Alcatel Business Systems unit raised its stake in STC Business Communications of South Africa to 50 percent from 19.9 percent previously. Financial details were not disclosed.
- Outokumpu Metals & Resources Oy, part of Finnish metals and mining group Outokumpu Oy, said it had signed a letter of intent to sell its entire stake in Transamine of France.
- The Dutch consumer confidence index entered positive territory for the first time in four years with a record rise of eight points, the Central Bureau of Statistics said.
- The National Bank of Belarus has significantly increased the minimum capital requirement for banks operating in the country to make banks more stable and reliable, a spokesman told the Interfax news agency.
- News Corp. said it had raised the price of The Sun newspaper to 22 pence (34 cents) from 20 pence because of higher paper and print prices.

Drug Cuts Hit French Shares

Bloomberg Business News

PARIS — Shares of the chemical and pharmaceutical company Rhône-Poulenc SA fell 3 percent Monday after the government imposed price cuts of between 3 percent and 20 percent on some of the most frequently prescribed drugs in France, traders said.

Rhône-Poulenc stock fell 4 francs to 130.80 (\$25) after news of the price cuts.

Rhône-Poulenc officials played down the significance of the government's move, which affected not only the company's Zoltum but also other leading manufacturers' drugs.

AMB Premium Income Rises

Bloomberg Business News

AACHEN, Germany — AMB Aachen & Münchener Betreibungs AG said Monday its premium income in the first half rose 7.3 percent, to 7.70 billion Deutsche marks (\$5 billion). The insurance conglomerate said the increase should ensure strong earnings and a dividend at least as high as the 14 marks per share paid for 1993. The insurer didn't release earnings figures.

On October 28th, the IHT will publish a Special Report on

AUSTRIA

Among the topics to be covered are:

- What European Union membership means to Austria.
- The post-election political outlook.
- A return to growth after several years of recession.
- Sectors affected by the privatization program.
- Vienna as a financial and cultural center.

For further information, please contact Bill Maher in Paris at (33-1) 46 37 93 78, fax: (33-1) 46 37 50 44.

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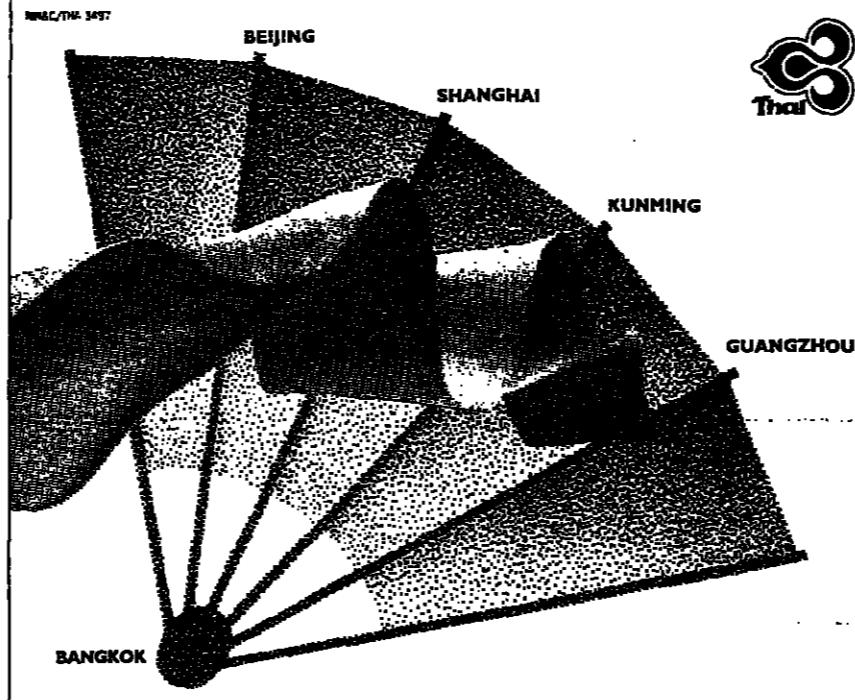
Herald Tribune

Continued on Page 12

NYSE

Monday's Closing
Tables include the nationwide prices up to
the closing on Wall Street and do not reflect
late trades elsewhere. Via The Associated Press

(Continued)



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Hitachi Weighs Offshore Expansion

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO — Hitachi Ltd. is considering producing and marketing personal computers overseas for the first time, a spokesman said Monday.

The company has not decided the timing or scale of production, the spokesman said.

Japanese news reports said the company planned to build personal computers in the United States starting in 1996. The spokesman would only say that sights in Oklahoma and in the Philippines were under consideration.

Hitachi has a plant in Oklahoma that makes magnetic disks and other items. Its plant

in the Philippines which produces small hard-disk drives.

The spokesman said Hitachi expected to sell about 140,000 personal computers in the year ending in March 1995, up from 88,000 last year. A report in Nihon Keizai Shimbun said the company planned a tenfold increase in its personal computer sales at home and abroad by the year ending in March 1997, to 1.2 million units.

The report also said Hitachi may invest as much as 100 billion yen (\$1 billion) in the project to build personal computers abroad and on development of a marketing network in Asia, Europe and the United States. The Japanese computer market is largely saturated, but there is still room for new entrants overseas, the report said.

(AFX, Bloomberg)

NEC Plans Expansion

Strong global personal-computer sales and prospects for surging demand for semiconductors have led Japan's biggest chipmaker, NEC Corp., to take a gamble on a giant new plant,

news agencies reported.

NEC said Monday it would

invest about \$1 billion in a pro-

duction line for 16-megabit and

64-megabit dynamic random-

access memory chips at either

its plant in Scotland or its plant

in California.

"The actual investment will

be approximately \$1 billion,

but the location has not been

decided yet," said Mark Pearce,

an NEC spokesman. "Both gov-

ernments are trying hard to get

the NEC contract."

NEC also said Monday it planni-

ed to contract out production

of electronic components to Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. to keep up with

growing world demand.

The Taiwan company, a sub-

sidiary of Philips Electronics

NV, will make between 2 mil-

lion and 3 million application-

specific integrated circuit chips

a year, or between 20 percent

and 30 percent of NEC's produc-

tion, Mr. Pearce said.

He also confirmed that NEC

planned to double production

of cellular telephones to around

3 million a year by March 1995,

increasing production in Brit-

ain, Mexico and Japan.

(Reuters, AFP)

High Price Set in Japan For Telecom

Reuters

TOKYO — Individuals are likely to dominate Thursday's auction of shares in Japan Telecom after the long-distance telephone company set a minimum bid price that seems too high, analysts said Monday.

The minimum bid price is 2,410,000 yen (\$24,400) a share, which brokers said would dull interest among domestic and foreign institutional investors.

That could mean a near-repeat of last week's auction of Japan Tobacco Inc. shares, in which individuals aggressively snapped up the shares at premium prices.

A British broker said many big investors expected the Japan Telecom shares to fall because they would be overvalued.

Despite institutional investors' lukewarm response, all 17,000 Japan Telecom shares up for auction on Thursday are likely to be snapped up, because there are so few of them.

Bank Negara Polishes Its International Image

Reuters

KUALA LUMPUR — Bank Negara's recent dismantling of eight-month-old capital controls that soured investor sentiment on Malaysia is an attempt by the central bank to restore its tarnished international image, economists and analysts said Monday.

Some said the recent moves marked a return to sanity by the Malaysian central bank and would renew sagging investor confidence in Malaysia.

But skeptics say the damage to Bank Negara's credibility has been done and that the Malaysian central bank will find it hard to undo.

Bank Negara found itself at the bottom of a recent magazine rating of Southeast Asian central banks because of its han-

dling of regulations on foreign investment, one economist said.

"The reputation of the bank was set back a good two to five years because of its actions," he said. "It will be a long time before the industry trusts them again."

The central bank recently lifted its ban, imposed in January, on the sale of short-term money market instruments to foreigners and last week removed a ban on the trading of forward swaps on the bid side by foreigners.

Bank Negara's announcements followed easings of other capital restrictions this year, including its ban on sale of long-term paper to foreigners and a "negative interest rate" charged on foreign-held ringgit accounts.

The turbulence in Malaysia's foreign exchange markets began late last year, when

exchange rates began to fluctuate.

CORSA: Can't Get Enough of It

Continued from Page 9

circulation system, and it even is built to be 95 percent recyclable.

To GM's worldwide operating units, though, its appeal is more visceral.

It has 36 percent fewer parts than its predecessor model and takes 25 percent fewer worker-hours to build. "Corsa offers a very good price-value relationship that comes from the ease of manufacturing," said Mr. Wolf.

It also has a rounded, bold styling. "There has been a lot of criticism of car designs getting so international that they seem characterless," said Hideo Kodama, 50, the chief designer for Corsa.

GM describes the Corsa as having a "progressive shape for the '90s without resorting to the 'retro-look' which can alienate young male drivers." Mr. Kodama said his major inspiration was a car that GM exhibited in auto shows more than a decade ago but never produced — the Junior.

"Everybody in-house remembered and liked the Junior," said Mr. Kodama. He said that as with the Corsa, the Junior's external design — with its high roofline and expanse of windows — emphasized its interior spaciousness.

On the surface, Mr. Kodama, a Japanese national working for Opel, would hardly seem the most likely proponent of German styling. Born in Yokohama, he applied for a job in Detroit just after receiving his industrial design degree in Japan in 1966.

"Probably the Corsa's success owes as much to its styling as anything else," said Michael Smith, a car industry consultant at DRI/McGraw Hill in London. "It has an attractive look to it."

Beginning last year, GM dis-

covered the Corsa's appeal in a series of so-called customer clinics around the world.

Groups of potential car-buyers assembled by the company gave the Corsa reviews enthusiastic enough to start GM thinking about selling in markets from Egypt to Japan.

The one market where the Corsa will not be seen soon is the United States. The company continues to supply U.S. dealers with small cars manufactured by its California-based joint venture with Toyota Motor Corp.

"We could supply the U.S. and Canada from our Mexican plant," but that decision has not been made, Mr. Wolf said.

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TO OUR READERS IN BELGIUM

CABLE: CNN Faces Competition

Continued from Page 9

The Simpson case, which began in mid-June, helped CNN end the second quarter with prime-time ratings that were unchanged from the quarter a year earlier. For the month of July, CNN even posted a ratings gain; for one half-hour on July 6, in fact, during Mr. Simpson's much-watched preliminary hearing, CNN attracted more than 5.5 million viewers.

But CNN's ratings almost certainly would have been even higher during the hearing were it not for the fact that the broadcast networks were also showing it live. Having popularized this kind of live coverage, CNN is now feeling the effects of more competition.

With the slump in ratings, CNN's profit has also suffered. For the first quarter, operating profits for Turner Broadcasting System Inc.'s news division, which includes CNN, CNN International and Headline News, dropped 7.5 percent from a year

earlier, to \$49 million. For the second quarter, operating profit was essentially flat at \$55 million.

CNN is still a lucrative venture, especially by the standards of television news divisions, which often lose money. "Any one of the broadcast networks would love to have CNN's cash flow for their news operations," said Larry Gerbrandt, senior vice president at Paul Kagan Associates, a media research firm.

Last year, Turner's news division reported operating income of \$212 million on revenue of \$599 million. This year, Mr. Gerbrandt predicts that the channel will see a "modest increase" in profits.

Still, the management of CNN is clearly concerned.

In April, Tom Johnson, the channel's president, sent a memo to staff members urging them to "put the hard-news energy back into the network."

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NASDAQ

Monday's 4 p.m.
This list compiled by the AP, consists of the 1,000 most traded securities in terms of dollar value. It is updated twice a year.

AMEX

Monday's Closing
Tables include the nationwide prices up to
the closing on Wall Street and do not reflect
state trades elsewhere. Via The Associated Press

INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 1994

12 Month High Low Stock	Div	Yld	PE	100s	High	Low	Latest Chg%	12 Month High Low Stock	Div	Yld	PE	100s	High	Low	Latest Chg%	12 Month High Low Stock	Div	Yld	PE	100s	High	Low	Latest Chg%		
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16% 10% CAI Wre	-	-	-	-	19	49	23%	22%	22%	74	12	10	-1%	-	-	-	17% 16% CACI	-	-	-	-	17	16	16	+1%
20% 21% CTEC	-	-	-	-	19	345	29%	29%	29%	265	21	19	-1%	-	-	-	18% 17% CACI	-	-	-	-	18	17	17	+1%
14% 14% CACI	-	-	-	-	19	295	29%	29%	29%	265	21	19	-1%	-	-	-	19% 18% CACI	-	-	-	-	19	18	18	+1%
11% 5% Coore	-	-	-	-	19	265	29%	29%	29%	225	21	19	-1%	-	-	-	20% 19% CACI	-	-	-	-	20	19	19	+1%
25% 21% Colgate	-	-	-	-	19	265	29%	29%	29%	225	21	19	-1%	-	-	-	21% 20% CACI	-	-	-	-	21	20	20	+1%
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21% 19% ColgateP	-	-	-	-	19	175	29%	29%	29%	185	17	15	-1%	-	-	-	55% 54% CACI	-	-	-	-	55	54	54	+1%
21% 19% ColgateP	-	-	-	-	19	175	29%	29%	29%	185	17	15	-1%	-</td											

SPORTS

For Newest 'Canadians,' A Sizzling Vegas Debut

By Chris Dufresne
Los Angeles Times Service

LAS VEGAS — Oh, Canada, did you get letters?

They came by fax, cable, express mail. Some were cryptic; others official denunciations double-spaced on Parliament parchment.

G.E. Alexander, Regina, Saskatchewan: "O Canada" is NOT sung to the tune of 'O Christmas Tree."

Jim Abbott, member of Parliament, Kootenay East: "I was absolutely disgusted with the pitiful insulting performance of the Canadian National anthem on television on Saturday night. If we continue to exhibit a lack of pride in Canada, the greatest nation on earth, and passively allow the absolute butchering of our fine national anthem, we deserve to be the laughingstock of the United States, and I for one won't stand for it."

Noreen Main, Regina: "Well, you people have done it again. First, it was the flag upside down at the World Series. Now we have a singer who can't carry a tune, who sings the Canadian national anthem to his tune and his words. What an insult to all Canadians."

Lee Meade gathered the stack of letters from his desk and returned them to a file. After a career in newspapers and public relations, Meade, 66, had retired to Minnesota when he was called back to head up publicity for the Las Vegas Posse, one of three 1994 expansion franchises awarded the United States by the founding Canadian Football League.

The CFL crossed the border into Sacramento, California, last year and this season put down stakes in Baltimore; Shreveport, Louisiana, and Las Vegas.

Self-respecting Canadians turned their heads for last December's official naming of the Las Vegas franchise. For the team's unveiling at the Lady Luck Hotel, a bare-bottomed magician known as Melinda, First Lady of Magic, was shot out of a cannon.

The Posse, purchased for \$3 million by Ohio businessman Nick Milet, held training camp at the Riviera Hotel, which tore up a parking lot and built the Posse a practice field adjacent to its casino. During camp, the team's assistant equipment manager won \$2,200 in jackpots over two days.

Coached by the National Football League-savvy Ron Meyer, the Posse does not have a Canadian-born player on its 37-man roster. Canadian-based teams are required to have at least 20 "nonimports" on the roster.

Because of size limitations at Sam Boyd Stadium, the Posse

The Posse held training camp at the Riviera Hotel, where a team assistant won \$2,200 in jackpots.

does not play on a standard CFL-sized field. The end zones are 15 yards deep, five shorter than regulation, and the playing width is two yards narrower than the standard 65 feet.

It makes for cramped quarters.

Then there is the heat.

Game-time temperature for the team's June 29 exhibition opener against the Edmonton Eskimos was 115 degrees Fahrenheit (46 degrees centigrade), 146 on the artificial turf at 8 P.M.

That was Canadian bacon compared to the Posse's July 16 regular-season home opener against Saskatchewan, when Dennis Casey Park of Fullerton, California, stepped to the microphone and let fly "O Canada."

Park mangled both tune and lyric. The singer, in fact, had been a last-minute anthem replacement for the stepson of John Chura, a Posse assistant coach.

"Hell no," she said. "It's too Park came billed as a sea-damn hot."

somed pro, son of a circus acrobat. He had been in show business since age 3. He had also played Vegas before, but does not subscribe to the stereotype. "I'm not a Vegas singer," he said recently from his home. "I'm not a lounge singer. I'm not Wayne Newton."

That night, Park sang like Nate Newton. Wailing a capella, he made a monumental mistake by not properly gauging the delay and distortion of his voice's echo.

Park couldn't get out of town fast enough.

"To the people who were insulted, I let them know it was unfortunate, that I was sorry," Park said.

What could be worse?

Well, there were those horse droppings on the playing field. The Posse's mascot is a group of horse and riders called the Posse Nine, which entertains during pregame and halftimes.

Roughrider Coach Ray Jauch feared the horses were going to trample his players. "Get those damn horses away from us," he kept yelling.

Cheerleaders posed another problem. Because wider Canadian fields mean less sideline room, Posse showgirls often ended up too close to the opposing bench.

"Our guys are young, and they were hot and sweaty," Jauch told the Toronto Globe and Mail.

"Naturally, they're going to look at the young ladies and take their minds off the game for at least a few seconds."

Once, the cheerleaders had to be chased out of the end zone during play.

Saskatchewan filed a complaint with the CFL.

If that wasn't enough, the Posse can't draw horseflies to their games. The team averaged 11,023 fans for its first three games in a 32,000-seat stadium.

Joyce, a waitress at the Hotel San Remo and a big football fan, summed it up when asked if she would be attending that night's game between the Posse and Balfour CFers.

"I'll go," she said. "It's too

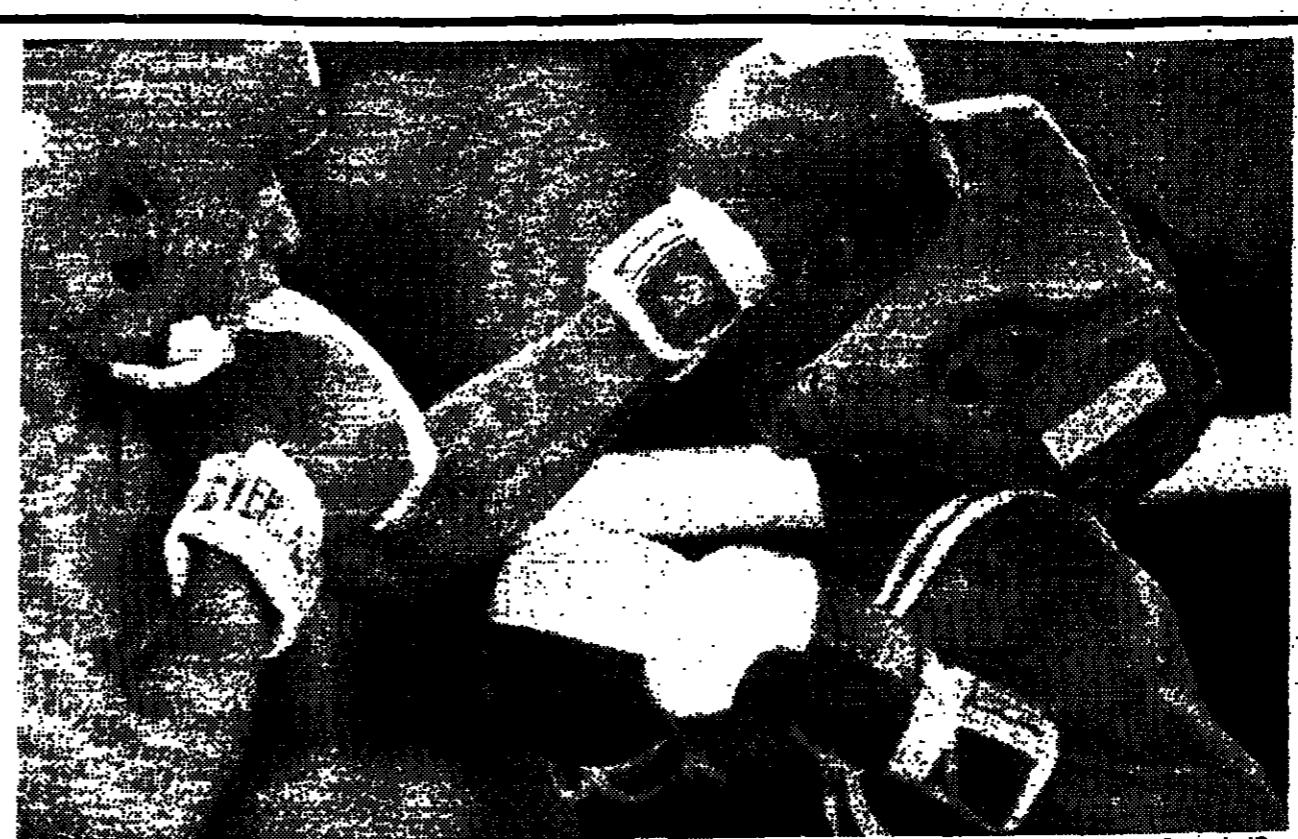
Adeniken, sixth at the '92 Olympics, is hurt. He needed two stitches in his face after a fight with Dennis Mitchell of the United States after the Zurich meet, and he skipped the Brussels event.

Surin, the 1993 world indoor champion at 60 meters, also is subpar physically. He had surgery last month to remove cartilage from his left knee.

Christie, defending champion in the men's 100 meters, the 1993 world champion and 1992 Olympic gold medalist, is coming off a series of sparkling European performances.

"It's going to be harder to keep the Commonwealth title than the European title," Christie said. "Frankie Fredericks will be after me and the Nigerians always put out those decent sprinters. I don't plan to let this go. But it's clear I will have to be giving the others plenty of respect."

The others include Fredericks, the quiet Namibian who was runner-up to Christie in the Barcelona Games; Canada's Bruny Surin, the bronze medalist at the 1990 Commonwealth Games, and Olapade Adeniken and Daniel Effiong of Nigeria.



Alifi Duffy of Western Samoa, left, winner of his bout with Godson Sowah of Ghana, at the Commonwealth Games.

The Next Leg for Christie and Co.

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

VICTORIA, British Columbia — The Britons are here with their best — Linford Christie, Sally Gunnell and Colin Jackson. The Kenyans brought their young runners in place of their distance stars. And South Africa was poised to win its first gold medal in 36 years, as the track and field events of the Commonwealth Games got under way Monday.

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Christie, Adeniken and Effiong compete at their best, the 100 could be the marquee event of track and field. Effiong beat Christie last month in Linz, Austria. The first round and quarterfinals will be Monday, with the semifinals and final Tuesday.

Nevertheless, the less renowned Kenyan runners have looked good in practice and still could monopolize the medals in the distance races.

South Africa, competing in the games for the first time since 1958 after being banned because of its apartheid policy, has the capability of performing well in track and field. Its top hopes are Elana Meyer, the women's 10,000-meter silver medalist at Barcelona; men's 1,500-meter runner Johan Landsman, who has run 3 minutes, 33.36 seconds, and pole vaulter Olkert Brits, who has cleared 5.85 meters this year. (AP, Reuters)

U.S. Faces Swimming Challenge

By Frank Litsky
New York Times Service

INDIANAPOLIS — Until the 1970s, American swimmers ruled the waves, usually winning most of the gold medals in the Olympics. Even in recent years, they have won more than most nations — 11 of the 31 gold medals in the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, 13 of 32 in the 1991 world championships in Perth.

But the rest of the world is closing in. In the world championships two weeks from now in Rome, no other country may win more medals than the United States, but many will chip away. There should be good shares for Russian men and for Chinese and German women. There should be medals for Hungary, Australia, Finland, New Zealand, Canada, Britain, Spain and Italy.

During the last week here, 22 men and 19 women qualified for the U.S. team. The 28 individual events here produced world records and no outright American record was equaled.

In the face of these good-but-not-great performances, the head coaches of the American team tried to remain upbeat.

"We're definitely underdogs," said Richard Quick of Stamford, the women's coach. "I'm concerned about our improvement versus the improvement of the rest of the world, but I'm not in a worry mode."

And Jon Urbanchek of Michigan, the men's coach, said: "We're still the dominant nation. Nobody is loaded like us as a combined team."

With their depth, the Americans could win as many as five of the six relays. But individual gold medals may be scarcer.

Quick said the only individual gold-medal candidates among the women are Janet Evans in the 400-meter and 800-meter freestyle and Alison Wagner in both individual medleys.

Urbanchek said Jeff Rouse is likely to win a gold for the men in the 100-meter backstroke.

SCOREBOARD

TENNIS

RCA CHAMPIONSHIPS in Indianapolis, Indiana

Doubles

Aramis Sanchez-Vicario, Spain, and Martina Navratilova, U.S., (1), def. Dennis Ralston, France, and Walter Moser, Australia, 6-2, 6-4.

Jim Grabb and Richard Renshaw, U.S., (4), def. Oliver Detlefs, France, and Walti Mueller, Switzerland, 6-2, 6-4.

Volvo International in New Haven, Connecticut

Floored

Boris Becker, Germany, def. Marc Rosset, Switzerland, 6-3, 7-4.

Individuals

Grant Connell, Canada, and Patrick Galvin, Canada, def. Steve Smith, Australia, 6-3, 6-4.

Fourth at the RCA Championships in Indianapolis, Indiana

Finals

Aramis Sanchez-Vicario, Spain, and Martina Navratilova, U.S., (1), def. Pam Shriver, U.S. and Elizabeth Smylie, Australia, 2-6, 6-4.

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SPORTS

Baseball, the Belgian Pastime

By Ian Thomsen
International Herald Tribune

ANTWERP — The best baseball in Belgium is being played by the Brasschaat Lewis Braves, who practice twice a week after work and play on five weekends. They have six players from the Belgian national team and a former major league pitcher, Joel McKeon, who in Belgium is everything the Americans used to say about Sandy Koufax. He is 31 and they can look up his name in the American baseball encyclopedia, on the same page as Denny McLain. No one had ever seen anything like him.

"For the first year, I couldn't catch him," said Karl Onzia, the Brasschaat catcher who is hitting around .570 this year. "He throws a forkball and I had bruises all over me. Sometimes it went left, sometimes it went down, sometimes it went right. Mostly it hit me on the wrist. Sometimes I just missed the ball."

It is near the end of his third year here now, and Joel McKeon has never lost a game. He was packing for Italy the year after the majors had released him forever when the contract with his Italian team fell through. A friend made a phone call and someone from Brasschaat called back and two days later he was on his way to Belgium. Brasschaat is a place near Antwerp, where baseball was founded by the American sailors after the war. Lewis is the club sponsor.

McKeon is also the team manager when he isn't pitching. He hadn't shaved in a few days. He is average baseball height with the big ballyplayer's jaw, and his transitional belly is sagging only a little. His team is 24-1 with one weekend left in the regular season, and he isn't planning on coming back for more than five weeks next year, enough time for him to coach with the Belgian national team. He doesn't plan on pitching next year.

"He hasn't been training in the winter at all, but his control is so accurate," Onzia said. "If I set up for a strike on the outside corner, nine times out of 10 it is a strike on the outside corner. I call mostly the pitches for him. From the first season on, he only shakes me off two or three times a game. He has always been humble. He has always been kind, never angry. The night before he pitches, he won't go out, he won't drink. He knows what his job is here."

Karl Onzia grew up near the baseball diamond here, which shares the green, chain-link fence in right field with the local airport.

"We started playing by hitting a tennis ball with a piece of wood," he said. An old bat, you mean. "With a piece of wood," he insisted; and he asked, "I think in America they play as kids in the streets?" They used

to all the time, yes. "Well, it wasn't allowed here. Later we played on a basketball field with a tennis ball. The fence was only 50 meters: so if you hit a home run over the wall, you were out. We had to hit line drives. We made up all the rules ourselves."

Each winter he trains for the baseball season, though it never amounts to more than 45 games including the playoffs. His wife owns a bakery, and he is a sales engineer of technical equipment, but when his mind wanders he is thinking about baseball. In his uniform, strong and a little stout, he looks like a catcher from the 1930s, like a black-and-white picture comes to life.

"Four years ago, the coach of the national team asked how old he was. Onzia said he was 23 and the coach was American; but better to let Onzia tell it.

"He said, 'That is a pity.' He told me I could easily have played in Doubles-A, but that I was a little too old. He said most of the guys who were drafted were 17, 18, 19 years old."

Two years later, after Onzia had won the Belgian triple crown with a .519 average, 13 home runs and 46 RBI in 26 games, he was purchased by Brasschaat for around \$30,000, of which he received nothing. It was his favorite year. Brasschaat had qualified for the eight-team European championships, and the club also brought in McKeon and his friend, the catcher Tom Magrane, who had played nine games with the Cleveland Indians in 1989. That was all for Magrane, hitting in 10 major league games — but in Belgium he won the 1992 Triple Crown in just 15 games, hitting .605 with 18 homers. They say he could throw 80 mph to second base.

So, every day with a baseball practice or game was heavenly for someone like Karl Onzia, who had struggled to pick up this American tradition from technical hitting books and rare, late-night broadcasts of major league games; it was like the dreams American boys have of passing a basketball to Larry Bird or Magic Johnson. They were purely amateurs, the rest of the Brasschaat team, but they finished third in Europe that year, and that was the last they saw of Tom Magrane.

The rest of the club has since held around McKeon. Last weekend's games were against the Ray Ban Borgerhoutse Squirrels on their home diamond, which is where Onzia and three of his current teammates grew up playing together. Most of the Belgian baseball is played in Antwerp, and apparently most of the players grew up around baseball fields.

Boezmans Oswald, the 32-year-old first baseman/outfielder and former pitcher for the Squirrels, grew up across the street from this same ballyard. In 1990, when he was the best Belgian player, he pitched the eighth inning of the world amateur all-star game in Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium. Onzia can tell that the hitters are still

nervous after three years against McKeon, the way they shift their feet and hold the bat as if dangling from a rope; but afterward, talking in the dugout, everyone is comfortable asking him questions.

"He is always telling us that after somebody hits a home run, the next hitter is scared because he is afraid the pitcher is going to hit him," Oswald said. "That is something that's kind of weird; I don't understand that. Why hit the next player? Also, he says that when a batter gets hit, he goes to the mound to get in a fight. I don't know. I don't think a pitcher can hit anybody on purpose. That's something I never learned to do. When somebody comes up after a home run, why would you hit him? Why not strike him out? That should be better. I would strive to strike out the next hitter."

The best baseball game in Belgium last weekend was played in surroundings no better than a small-town American high school ballpark. A few dozen people sat in folding chairs behind the chain-link fencing, with 100 or so more scrambled across the two wooden bleachers. In between innings, McKeon introduced his slugging left fielder, Peter Vanwarren, a Dutchman with curly, reddish hair and a Wade Boggs moustache. Vanwarren said he would have to quit his job and relocate if he wanted to play for a top Dutch team.

"How do you say it?" he stammered, trying to explain his job. "We have 34 shops in Belgium and Holland."

What do you do?

I am in charge of supplies."

What is the name of the company?

"Erotic Discount Center," he said. "We got the dirty books."

Later, he hit his 19th home run, tying the league record with three games remaining.

THE GAME was played with aluminum bats from America, and the blue top with "Braves" written curiously was underlined by the traditional tomahawk. A few of the players had scratches tearing open in their pants' backsides where they slid. The red, wet basepaths were mottled like the moon, and the umpire wore glasses underneath his mask; the public-address man mumbled each batter's name as if introducing flight departures. The propeller planes came teetering, sputtering like crop-dusters over the field, slow and close enough for Barry Bonds to knock out of the sky, and every time Karl Onzia turned around, he was either smiling or about to.

They didn't seem to realize that the next time a war comes, God forbid, and the Americans dock their ships in Antwerp, they'll more likely be organizing games of football or basketball. Nor did they understand how the world's best could be refusing the chance to play baseball; and really, that is the difference between the American players and the best players in Belgium.



Robert Galbraith/Reuters

Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, who outlasted Steffi Graf.

Graf Loses Tiebreaker In Rainy Canada Final

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MONTREAL — Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, ranked No. 2, outlasted four rain delays and survived four match points to beat world No. 1-ranked Steffi Graf, 7-5, 1-6, 7-6, to win the Canadian Open.

"I just tried to be really patient, stay calm and be ready when the match started again," the Spanish player said of the six hours and 10 minutes the 2½-hour match took to complete.

Graf had four match points on her serve at 5-4 in the final set, but she failed to convert, making three backhand errors.

In the tiebreaker, Sanchez Vicario took control with aggressive shotmaking and volleys. She won the tiebreaker, 7-4.

In men's tennis, Boris Becker was the clear winner all week in the Volvo International in New Haven, Connecticut. Becker, the third seed, completed his sweep through the tournament by beating seventh-seeded Marc Rosset of Switzerland, 6-3, 7-5, in the final. Becker didn't drop a set in the tournament, which was plagued by numerous rain delays and a controversy over some of the changes the ATP was trying to increase interest in the sport.

(Reuters, AP)

Team of Owners Tapped to Play In Strike Talks

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A team of 12 owners was named Monday to participate in the negotiations with the striking baseball players.

The list includes Jerry McMorris, owner of the Colorado Rockies; Bill Bartholomay and Stan Kasten of the Atlanta Braves; Paul Beeston, Toronto Blue Jays; John Harrington, Boston Red Sox; David Glass, Kansas City Royals; Andy MacPhail, Minnesota Twins; Drayton McLane, Houston Astros; Stuart Meyer, St. Louis Cardinals; David Montgomery, Philadelphia Phillies; Jerry Reinsdorf, Chicago White Sox; and Wendy Selig-Priebe, Milwaukee Brewers.

The 12 will assist Richard Ravitch, the chief negotiator in the talks, although no more than five or six members of the group will participate at any one time, according to a spokesman for the major leagues.

"We won't know that this week, I think," he said.

Florida Tops Preseason Poll

The Associated Press

The Florida Gators edged Notre Dame by two points for the top spot in The Associated Press preseason college football poll, the closest vote since the poll began in 1950.

It's the fifth straight year that a team from the Sunshine State has started the season No. 1. Miami did it in 1990 and '92, and Florida State in '91 and '93.

Florida, which won 11 games last season, got 15 first-place votes and 1,416 points from the national media panel; Notre Dame had 13 votes and 1,414 points.

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Germany D.M.	700	350	210	
Great Britain £	210	100	115	
Greece Dr.	75,000	350	22,000	
Ireland £	220	50	125	
Italy Lira	500,000	45	275,000	150,000
Luxembourg L. Fr.	14,000	350	7,700	4,200
Netherlands N.G.	3,500	150	1,900	1,050
Portugal Esc.	47,000	250	28,000	14,000
Spain Pts.	48,000	250	28,500	14,500
— Madrid, Spain	55,000	250	27,500	14,500
Sweden S.Kr.	3,100	150	1,700	900
— Stockholm, Sweden	3,500	250	1,900	1,000
Switzerland SFr.	610	40	355	185
Rest of Europe or CEE S	485	—	265	145
C.E.I. N. Africa, former French African, Middle East S	630	—	345	190
Gulf States, Asia, Central and South America, South Africa S	780	—	430	235
Rest of Africa S	900	—	495	270

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ART BUCHWALD

Playing It Cool With Di

MARTHA'S VINEYARD, Massachusetts — Of all the celebrities I have ever seen on this celebrity-blighted island, none has ever created the excitement caused by Princess Diana. She is not only the talk of Martha's Vineyard, but whenever I speak to the mainland, people want every morsel of information I can give them.

I had the most unbelievable experience when I spotted her one morning walking down Main Street in Vineyard Haven with some friends. At first I couldn't believe my eyes, so I started pinching myself until it hurt.

"Is it really her?" I asked my friend Fain Hackney, with whom I was talking on the street corner. "It's Diana," he assured me. "My wife has the same hairdo."

"I was afraid it would come to this," I said. "She's been stalking me for three days."

I decided to play it cool and pretend that we in Vineyard Haven are used to British royalty strolling down our streets.

The Smithsonian: Success in Japan

The Associated Press

CHIBA, Japan — The Smithsonian Institution's first overseas exhibition, described as a peek into America's attic, has attracted more than 1 million visitors in Japan, a spokesman said.

The exhibit in this city 40 miles east of Tokyo includes nuggets of Americana such as the ruby slippers Judy Garland wore in "The Wizard of Oz" and George Armstrong Custer's buckskin jacket.

Organizers estimated 1.5 million people will see the exhibition before it closes on Aug. 31.



Buchwald

As she passed me — no more than a foot away — I bent down and started to tie my shoelace. I wasn't snubbing her; at the same time I wasn't going to curtsey and tell her to have a nice day.

As soon as she disappeared into a store I rushed to a pay telephone to call my loved ones all over the country.

"I saw Princess Di," I shouted to my sister Edie in Seattle.

The reaction was exactly as expected. She shouted to her son David: "ARTHUR SAW PRINCESS DI!" She yelled it so loud the neighbors all came in.

"What was she wearing?" one of the neighbors screamed into the mouthpiece.

"A red T-shirt and black jeans."

"Was she wearing a tiara?" Edie wanted to know.

"No, it was the first thing I checked."

"Why not a tiara?"

"A tiara is too fancy for Vineyard Haven. It only goes in Nantucket."

□

My sister asked, "How did people react when they saw her?"

I told her, "The women took one look at her body, covered their legs with beach towels and went into a fetal position."

"Did you sense she was having a good time?"

"Yes, I did. Everyone looked at her in awe, but no one came up to her and asked to have a picture with her. A lady standing next to me said, 'I have to get her autograph or my husband will never believe I saw her.'

The lady next to her asked, "What kind of relationship do you have with your husband if he won't believe you saw a member of the royal family?"

Edith said, "I'm so proud of you. You didn't even try to see her, and when you did you didn't let her know how impressed you were."

"I'd never invade Di's privacy when she is on vacation. That's why we're such good friends."

WEATHER

Europe

	Today				Tomorrow			
	High	Low	W	CIF	High	Low	W	CIF
Aigues	26/84	18/64	N	26/84	26/84	18/64	N	26/84
Augsburg	21/70	18/54	N	21/70	17/52	13/52	R	21/70
Antwerp	20/82	11/62	N	20/82	24/77	13/62	R	20/82
Aix-en-Provence	34/86	24/77	N	34/86	28/84	22/77	R	34/86
Balaton	33/81	20/85	N	34/85	24/77	14/82	R	34/85
Berlin	26/75	13/62	N	26/75	27/75	14/62	R	26/75
Bordeaux	24/75	17/62	N	24/75	27/75	14/62	R	24/75
Budapest	29/84	18/62	N	29/84	27/85	14/62	R	29/84
Copenhagen	22/71	14/62	N	22/71	24/75	14/62	R	22/71
Dallas	24/75	17/62	N	24/75	27/75	14/62	R	24/75
Dublin	18/84	11/62	N	18/84	10/84	10/62	R	18/84
Edinburgh	14/87	10/84	N	14/87	17/85	11/82	R	14/87
Florence	20/87	14/62	N	20/87	24/77	14/62	R	20/87
Geneva	20/84	17/62	N	20/84	24/77	14/62	R	20/84
Genoa	15/82	10/84	N	15/82	20/84	14/62	R	15/82
Hamburg	20/84	11/62	N	20/84	24/77	14/62	R	20/84
London	21/70	14/62	N	21/70	17/70	11/62	R	21/70
Lyon	24/81	17/62	N	24/81	27/85	14/62	R	24/81
Madrid	23/82	16/62	N	23/82	27/85	14/62	R	23/82
Montreal	18/84	10/82	N	18/84	10/84	10/82	R	18/84
Munich	27/85	20/84	N	27/85	24/77	14/62	R	27/85
Nice	23/82	16/62	N	23/82	27/85	14/62	R	23/82
Oleiros	21/70	12/62	N	21/70	12/62	13/62	R	21/70
Paris	22/75	14/62	N	22/75	22/77	14/62	R	22/75
Paris (Orly)	26/79	16/62	N	26/79	27/85	14/62	R	26/79
Prague	18/84	10/84	N	18/84	20/84	14/62	R	18/84
Rome	21/70	14/62	N	21/70	22/77	14/62	R	21/70
St. Petersburg	18/86	8/62	N	18/86	24/77	14/62	R	18/86
Sydney	17/82	12/62	N	17/82	22/77	14/62	R	17/82
Toronto	20/84	12/62	N	20/84	22/77	14/62	R	20/84
Turin	17/82	11/62	N	17/82	21/70	14/62	R	17/82
Vienna	23/77	17/62	N	23/77	26/78	17/62	R	23/77
Vienna (Schoenbrunn)	23/73	10/82	N	23/73	23/75	13/62	R	23/73
Zurich	20/84	12/62	N	20/84	22/77	14/62	R	20/84
Oceania								
Sydney	18/81	7/64	N	18/81	24/77	14/62	R	18/81

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